





## Germany confirms arrest of Ben Laden associate

MUNICH (AFP) — German authorities said Sunday they had arrested a man sought by the United States as a key associate and financial brains behind suspected Saudi terrorist Osama Ben Laden.

The 40-year-old Sudanese, Mamdouh Mahmoud Salim, was detained Wednesday in Munich in the southern German state of Bavaria, Bavaria's interior minister Guenther Beckstein told a press conference here.

Washington believes Ben Laden's extremist Islamic organisation was behind the twin August 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 260 people, including 12 Americans, and injured more than 5,000.

Beckstein said Mahmoud Salim had admitted his identity during questioning, but denied

allegations against him by U.S. authorities who consider him one of Ben Laden's "inner circle."

U.S. justice officials had asked German authorities, via Interpol, to arrest him, Beckstein added.

Bavarian Justice Minister Hermann Leeb said the United States regarded him as the "chief financier" of the Ben Laden organisation and "the man in charge of supplying weapons" for it.

The arrest warrant drawn up by U.S. authorities was for "conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction" but it made no mention of any direct participation in an attack, Leeb added.

On Saturday, the Washington Post reported that U.S. officials had filed a sealed criminal complaint against Mahmoud Salim,

citing U.S. government sources describing him as "a major financial operative" in Ben Laden's organisation who had also helped obtain weapons.

Beckstein said there was no evidence Mahmoud Salim was planning terrorist activities in Germany, but that it was still unclear why he had entered the country.

He had arrived alone in Stuttgart, southern Germany, from Spain a week ago and made his way down to Munich, where police had already been alerted.

Mahmoud Salim, who gave his date of birth as March 24, 1958 in Khartoum, is currently in detention after being brought before a judge.

The United States has 40 days to draw up an extradition demand, Leeb said, but added: "I hope things will go quicker."



SETTLER RELEASED AFTER KILLING: Israeli settler Avshalom Ladani covers his face Sunday as he is escorted into the Jerusalem court. Ladani, who shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian and wounded another when he opened fire on students allegedly stoning Israeli cars last week, was released from jail and placed under house arrest in Jerusalem. The Palestinian National Authority had demanded the extradition of the settler (AFP photo)

## Iraq demands compensation for action against shipping

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq demanded compensation from Western governments Sunday for the "aggressive actions" of warships enforcing the U.N. embargo against cargo vessels headed for its Gulf ports.

"U.S. and other naval forces in the Gulf search ships loaded with food and medicines for Iraq in an arbitrary and continuous way," a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official news agency INA.

"These aggressive practices which violate U.N. resolutions are causing significant economic damage to Iraq — by provoking an increase in freight and insurance charges," he said.

"They are also aggravating the plight of ordinary Iraqis by delaying the arrival of food and medicines."

"The foreign ministry condemns these practices and reserves the right to take all legal steps to secure compensation for the losses which they are causing to it, directly or indirectly," the spokesman said.

The British, Canadian and U.S. ships of the multinational flotilla deployed in the Gulf to enforce the embargo imposed on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have stopped 4,000 ships in the past four years and searched 1,800 of them.

Iraq has twice this month accused the U.S. Navy of detaining cargoes destined for its ports.

## 'Iran helped Iraq evade U.N. sanctions'

LONDON (AFP) — A high-ranking Iraqi defector says he masterminded oil-smuggling operations for Saddam Hussein in defiance of U.N. sanctions with help from Iran. The Sunday Telegraph revealed in an interview.

Sami Salih, who escaped from prison in Iraq earlier this year after being accused of spying and tortured, told the newspaper he had set up a series of front companies in the Middle East and Europe to handle the trade.

The hundreds of millions of dollars it raked in were used to illegally buy arms and supplies for the Iraqi armed forces. The clandestine oil sales relied on the close cooperation of Iraq's once deadly foe Iran.

Salih, 38, now living in hiding with his family in Belgium after having defected to Britain, gave an account of his activities to British and U.S.

intelligence, enabling them to shut down the international smuggling network.

"The information provided by Salih is gold dust," a senior United Nations official in New York told the Sunday Telegraph.

"He has given us enough information to take effective action against Iraq's various attempts to evade sanctions."

According to the defector, the oil smuggling involved close cooperation with Iran, who agreed to help Iraq evade international sanctions by shipping oil through Iranian territorial waters, and then sell it as though it came from Iran.

In return the Iranians took a healthy cut of Iraq's black market profits.

He said the deal had been negotiated at the highest level of the Iranian regime, with one of the main contacts being the brother of the former President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

## 'Monica mess mars Mideast peacemaking'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — At other times U.S. President Bill Clinton would have used a Washington news conference to try to prod Israeli and Palestinian leaders into a long-overdue peace deal.

Instead, Clinton fielded questions last week about sex, lies and his affair with Monica Lewinsky while his special envoy Dennis Ross shuttled around the Middle East trying in vain to secure a breakthrough.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, reluctant to concede anything at the best of times, feel even less inclined to break their deadlock so long as Clinton is in political trouble, analysts said.

"Under other circumstances it would have been a platform to deliver a public message," Israeli political scientist Gerald Steinberg said of the White House

news conference. "But because all of the focus was on Monica, it would have been out of context, even ludicrous." Ross flew home on Sunday after an 11-day mission.

"It is hard to imagine a worse time for a Middle East visit by U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross," Israel's liberal daily Ha'aretz began an editorial last week, lamenting what it called the U.S. administration's "downgraded potency."

U.S. officials set low expectations for Ross's mission, and Clinton himself took a low profile, meeting U.S. Jewish leaders privately. Ross's visit was not even front-page news in Sunday's Jewish New Year editions of Israel's two biggest dailies.

Ross reported "some headway" in his talks but added: "There is still work to be done," and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright planned to meet Arafat and Netanyahu separately at the

United Nations General Assembly which starts its meeting this week.

There was talk that the two Middle East leaders would come together in New York. Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader who reluctantly inherited the Oslo peace accords with his election in May 1996, hasn't met Arafat for 11 months.

But nothing was firmed up. The sides remained at odds over Israeli security demands and terms of a U.S.-proffered deal transferring another 13 per cent of Israeli-occupied West Bank land to Palestinian self-rule.

Steinberg said each side had its reasons to want to delay an accord — all the more so while Washington was distracted by the scandal swirling around Clinton.

He said Arafat calculates he will do better to end peace moves now so long as he believes the United States, obsessed with scandal, is unable to pressure Israel into concessions.

For his part, Netanyahu believes the Palestinian Authority won't crack down on militants carrying out anti-Israeli attacks if Washington is too preoccupied to demand it, Steinberg said.

"For both sides to think that they were able to achieve the goals they want — Israel in terms of security and Arafat in terms of a Palestinian state — it will take a very strong outside involvement which only the United States can deliver," he added.

Israel has reimposed a full closure on the West Bank and Gaza for the Jewish New Year, barring entry to Palestinians except on humanitarian grounds until Wednesday.

"The situation that Clinton finds himself in certainly places severe restraints and restrictions upon his ability to move in the international arena," said Professor Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian long active in Middle East peacemaking.

## Algerian troops besiege 150 GIA rebels — paper

ALGIERS (R) — Government troops, backed by militiamen, are besieging 150 members of Algeria's feared Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in a forest southwest of the capital, an Algerian evening newspaper said on Sunday.

The independent French-language Le Soir d'Algerie quoted unidentified military sources as saying that GIA chief Antar Zouabri, 28, might be among the rebels.

The group had been under siege since Friday in Sidi M'Barek area in Saïda province, 330 km southwest of Algiers, the capital of the violence-racked North African country.

"It appears that Zouabri

and his close top aides are among the besieged GIA members who were meeting to plot the group's strategy," the newspaper said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report from independent or official sources.

Algerian newspapers have erroneously reported several times that Zouabri had been killed during similar military operations over the past 14 months. One such report said he had died in a major offensive near Algiers along with up to 140 Islamists.

Le Soir d'Algerie said the GIA had recently intensified its attacks with the aim of distracting the authorities' attention from the gathering.

The attacks included Friday's bomb blast which ripped through a market in a town southwest of Algiers in which at least 26 people were killed and 125 were wounded, the paper added.

Western diplomats have said the GIA was responsible for most of the horrific massacres in the oil and gas producing country in which thousands of people, mostly unarmed villagers or people living in poor urban areas, have been killed.

The group condemned last year's unilateral truce by the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of Algeria's main Muslim political group, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

## Egyptian official hails increased Western cooperation on 'terrorism'

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian official Sunday welcomed what he said was increased Western cooperation with Egypt in the fight against terrorism since last month's bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa.

"Cooperation has intensified with several states recently to counter the danger of international terrorism," the unnamed security service official told the government daily Al-Ahram.

"The United States heads the list of these countries following the attacks on their embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in August," he added.

"Some of these countries have imposed strict measures on suspected militants," the official said.

"Those terrorist organisations which had chosen London as a base are reorganising and trying to adjust to the new

British legislation targeting those who conspire to commit crimes abroad," he said.

Under the new legislation adopted by the British parliament following the embassy attacks and the bombing of dissident Republicans of the town of Omagh in Northern Ireland, plotting to carry out attacks abroad became an offence under English law for the first time.

The Egyptian security services "follow the activities of terrorist groups abroad very closely and strike blows against them to prevent them successfully carrying out their plans in Egypt," the official said without specifying the extent of the blows struck.

Egypt has long accused several European countries including Britain of sheltering Islamist militants wanted for crimes in Egypt.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egyptian woman kills husband over will

CAIRO (AP) — A woman, weighing 160 kilograms, sat on her husband's head until he suffocated to death following a dispute over his will, police officials said Sunday. Fawakih Ibrahim Abdul Latif killed her husband, Sayed Ahmad — who weighed 55 kilograms — Saturday after discovering he had left more land in his will for his four children from his first wife than the three he had with her. Abdul Latif, 62, pushed her 84-year-old husband to the ground and with his face down sat on his head until he suffocated to death, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. Ahmad was married to both Abdul Latif and his first wife. Police arrested Abdul Latif, who confessed to killing her husband. She could face the death penalty if convicted.

### Two more papers shut down in Iran

TEHRAN (AP) — Two more liberal newspapers have been closed down by Iranian authorities, apparently for stories critical of hard-liner leaders, the Iran Daily reported Sunday. The weekly newspapers Rah-e Nou and Tavana were ordered to stop publishing, the paper said. Other newspapers on Saturday said a Justice Ministry official called the papers' editors last Thursday with the order and that no official reason was given.

### Tough Israeli harassment law into effect

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One of the world's toughest laws on sexual harassment came into force in Israel Sunday, making even "ambivalent statements" and apparently unintentional physical contact potentially illegal. A person who caresses himself or herself in public, even in a not overtly sexual manner, is also liable for prosecution under the law which carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison. Gestures of a sexual nature and "slight physical contact that could appear unintentional" fall within the definition of sexual harassment as laid down in the law adopted by parliament earlier this year. The law covers not only obvious forms of harassment like sexual assault, pinching and requiring sexual favours in exchange for job advancement, but expands the definition to include "ambivalent statements of a sexual nature." Suggesting "joint outings," even to a person outside the work place, could also leave one open to personal prosecution. "This is one of the world's most progressive laws and we see it as a tremendous triumph," said Esther Pilpel, a lawyer with the main Israeli women's rights movement, Naamat, who helped draft the new law.

### Somali kidnappers sentenced to one year

MOGADISHU (AP) — Six gunmen who abducted a Roman Catholic nun were sentenced to one year in prison each by an Islamic court in Somalia's first trial of kidnappers this decade. The abductors, whose names were not released, must study Islam during their imprisonment, the court ruled Saturday. It was the first time kidnappers were tried under any law in Mogadishu since the beginning of civil strife in 1990.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:15	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Frankfurt, London (RJ)
11:30	Istanbul (RJ)
11:45	Kuwait (RJ)
12:10	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:40	Damascus (RJ)
21:05	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:25	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:25	Tehran (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights	
05:15	Istanbul (TK)
05:35	Larnaca (CY)
06:30	Paris (AF)
07:20	London (AF)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
14:00	Bahrain (GF)
14:50	Vienna (OS)
15:30	Doha (QR)
15:45	Istanbul (SD)
19:00	Beirut (ME)
19:45	Dubai (EK)
22:15	Tel Aviv (LY)
01:30	Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)	
07:00	Agaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
08:30	Agaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
19:45	Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)
20:30	Agaba (from QAIA) (RW)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
07:05	Sanaa (RJ)

### ARRIVALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700).	

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	5921199
The Islamic Abdi	5666131/7
Hussien Medical Centre	5856856
Luzmila	4630195
Khalidi Maternity	4644281/6
Akileh Maternity	4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	4642362
Malhas, J. Amman	4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	5607071
Shmeisani Hospital	5669131
University Hospital	5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital	566727/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali	5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	4777101/3
Al-Bashir	4775111/2
Army, Marka	4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	5602240/50
Amal Hospital	4891611/15

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	4637111
Civil Defence Department	5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	4630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade	4617101
Blood Bank	4775121
Highway Police	5343402
Traffic Police	4896390
Public Security Dept.	4630321
Hotel Complaints	5605800
Price Complaints	5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints	4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	4787111

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyir	4630115

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO	
15:10	Cartoon — Highlander
15:30	Drama — The Genie From Down Under
16:00	Drama — Neighbours
16:30	Doc. — Last Frontiers
17:00	French Programme — Thalassa
18:00	Drama — Sea Quest
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	French Programme — Science Actualites
19:30	News headlines
19:35	Comedy — Hope and Gloria
20:00	Perspective
20:30	World Net
21:10	Good Guys, Bad Guys
22:00	News in English
22:30	Mini-series — Shadow
23:59	End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:00	Fajr
05:18	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:29	Dhuhr
14:57	Asr
17:39	Maghreb
18:57	Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 4634590
Terra Sancta Church	Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church	Tel.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyir	4630115



## Trial of 13 accused of subversive acts adjourned until Wednesday

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The defence team of 13 people on trial for carrying out arson and subversive acts last April asked the State Security Court during the opening session yesterday for time to review the case.

The 13 defendants, including three who are being tried in absentia, are charged with possessing and manufacturing illegal explosives with illicit intent, carrying out extremist attacks and belonging to an illegal organisation known as "Reform and Challenge".

During the two-hour court session, presiding Judge Colonel Youssef Faouri read out the charge sheet. But before the defendants could enter a plea, an attorney for the defence told the heavily guarded courtroom that his team needed time to read the case.

Judge Faouri agreed and adjourned the session until Wednesday.

The defendants appearing in court Sunday were identified by officials as: Abdul Nasser Shihadeh, Samir Ismael, Ra'd Abdul Karim, Ahmad Hussein, Samir Sa'id, Mahmoud Abed, Khalid Tawfiq, Ramzi Mohammad, Mohammad Sa'id and Abdul Nasser Abu Shanab, an Egyptian.

The remaining three, who are being tried in absentia, are Majid Tal'at, Omar Mahmoud and Issa Nitham. They are believed to be hiding in the United States, the United Arab Emirates and England.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the 13 men met in 1994 and started taking religious lessons in their homes and decided to form a group "to change the reality in Jordan".

A year later, the group decided to name themselves the "Reform and Challenge", reform meaning change in ideas and challenge meaning change by hand and force, the charge sheet added.

In February 1998, the group decided to launch attacks against government, security and several individuals' property, in addition to entertainment establishments, and bought materials which they allegedly used to manufacture explosives.

The suspects were arrested in mid-May and confessed to setting fire to vehicles belonging to former intelligence chief Mohammad Rasoul Kilani and Senator Jawdat Shoul, a former interior minister, authorities said.

They also confessed to setting fire to part of the kindergarten at the Modern American School, a traffic police compound and the parking lot of the Jerusalem Hotel on University Road, they added.

The government had described the attacks as "aiming at destabilising the country in retaliation for its national stance".

No one was injured in any of the attacks.

## Government paper on magnitude of unemployment draws fire at conference

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — A government paper presented at the first session of the National Unemployment Conference yesterday drew criticism from participants, who described it as lacking information on the depth and magnitude of the problem of unemployment.

The paper, presented by Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh, discussed the size of the problem, types and causes of unemployment and its consequences and characteristics, and blamed it on political and economic crises that Jordan faced over the past 50 years.

"Thousands of Palestinians came to Jordan after the Arab-Israeli wars in 1948 and 1967. The Gulf war made things worse, when around 300,000 Jordanians were forced to return home," said Tarawneh.

Tarawneh provided a breakdown of the Jordanian population and the workforce, defined unemployment and divided it into categories and types, and maintained that unemployment stands at 15 per cent.

This was countered by Tony Sabagh, a pollster and consultant for the University of Jordan's Centre of Strategic Studies, which in 1996 conducted an extensive and detailed study about unemployment, placing it at 27 per cent.

Sabagh criticised Tarawneh's paper for lacking a categorisation of the unemployed ranks and their corresponding percentages.

"The government provided statistics on comprehensive figures on unemployment, but no details on each type," Sabagh said.

Other participants agreed with Sabagh and suggested

that the government survey on unemployment should provide detailed statistics on its depth and magnitude.

Sabagh also stressed the importance of coordination between the private and public sectors to ensure complementary efforts in tackling this pressing socio-economic ill.

One observer at the conference criticised the government paper as "old wine in new bottles."

"They have restated their old ideas and only wrapped them in modern form," said the observer.

The conference is being held amid rising demands from parliamentarians to replace the more than 350,000 foreign workers with Jordanian labourers.

The Ministry of Labour estimates that around 50,000 non-Jordanian workers do not hold valid work permits.

Most participants called for setting a minimum wage to lure local labourers and help abolish the "culture of shame," which many believe is a basic reason, along with low salaries, for shunning many jobs, especially in agriculture.

By setting up large cooperative projects among small farmers in the Jordan Valley and without changing the property structure, Jordan can create thousands of jobs, said Mustafa Hamameh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies. "In one year, Jordan can create around 15,000 jobs," he said.

Others called on the government to activate Jordanian diplomatic missions to help find jobs for citizens as well as promote national industry abroad.

"Marketing Jordanian industry abroad leads to creating more job opportunities for

## Participants stress need to coordinate educational system, labour market

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — Participants at the National Unemployment Conference Sunday stressed the need for an improved, precise, and comprehensive information network to better coordinate the Kingdom's educational system with the labour market's needs.

"We have to focus on developing a comprehensive information system that can provide us with as much accurate data to help set up adequate policies, rid the Kingdom of unemployment and help gear educational outputs to market demands," said Zuhair Kayed, head of the Public Administration Institute.

But Kayed, who chaired a session on education and Jordan's labour market demands, told the Jordan Times that it was difficult to coordinate educational output and market needs because several obstacles stand in the way.

According to Kayed, market demands are variable and the education system is neither dynamic nor swift in adapting to changing demands.

"That is why there is need for an information system that would help establish new

education and employment policies and would help in the creation of efficient job placement offices for both the public and private sectors," he said.

According to Tayseer Nahar of the National Centre for Human Resources Development, matching educational output to the labour market's needs requires knowledge of the number of graduates from institutions of higher learning and the number of jobs available. He said Jordan is suffering from a surplus in educated manpower.

"Out of every 100,000 Jordanians, around 3,311 are college or university students, and the current annual increase in the number of students enrolled in the country's universities is 9.2 per cent," he said.

He said that around 16 per cent of those with higher education degrees are unemployed and that half of the total number of unemployed hold degrees.

Another problem that Nahar cited was adapting the technological and academic skills of graduates to the demands of the market.

He said Jordan is currently exerting efforts to develop

higher education programmes in order to meet the demands of a rapidly changing market. "It is expected that the market's demands for skilled labour will only rise slightly but demand for unskilled labour will rise sharply," he said.

Of those holding high school certificates, 70 per cent are expected to join the workforce, of community college graduates, 16.6 per cent, and of university graduates, 13.3 per cent, he added.

Nahar recommended improving the equation between educational systems and market demands, promoting vocational training, adjusting high school curricula to help graduates find suitable jobs, developing a comprehensive policy to improve the quality of education, building a better information system to help advance education and employment policies, and encouraging higher education institutions and the production sectors to jointly run the education process.

Kayed seconded Nahar's recommendations and called for a unified policy that uses the input of the three main sectors, the public, the private, and the educational.

the Jordan Bar Association. Economists and businesspersons say past governments lacked the political will to curb the number of foreign workers.

The previous governments made a big mistake when they helped many Jordanians work abroad in order to bring in hard

currency while recruiting foreign workers to replace them," said one participant.

The conference, organised by the Ministry of Administrative Development, is expected to recommend medium- and long-term strategies to tackle unemployment.

## IN BRIEF

### husband over will

weighing 160 kilograms, he suffocated to death following officials said Sunday. Farah's husband, Sayed Ahmad — Saturday after discovering ill for his four children from his had with her, Abdul Latif, 42, and to the ground and with the suffocated to death, said officials of anonymity. Ahmad was his first wife. Police arrested killing her husband. She could not be reached.

### it down in Iran

liberal newspapers have been criticised, apparently, for stories on Iran Daily reported Sunday. The ou and Tavana were ordered to shut down. The newspaper's editor, Ali, called the papers' editors as that no official reason was given.

### ment law into effect

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### entenced to one year

gunmen who abducted a Roman to one year in prison in a bid to trial of kidnappers, the decade as were not released, must stand ment, the court ruled Sunday. The rs were tried under any law of ing of civil strife in Jordan.

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:15	Beirut (RJ)
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12:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:15	Baghdad, Dubai (RJ)
20:40	Damascus (RJ)
21:05	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:25	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:25	Tehran (RJ)
22:45	Sana'a (RJ)
Other Flights	
05:15	Istanbul (RJ)
05:35	Larnaca (RJ)
06:30	Panama (RJ)
07:20	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Baghdad (RJ)
14:00	Vienna (RJ)
14:50	Doha (RJ)
15:30	Istanbul (RJ)
15:45	Beirut (RJ)
19:00	Dubai (RJ)
19:45	Tel Aviv (RJ)
22:10	Khartoum (RJ)
22:15	Amsterdam (RJ)
01:30	Amsterdam (RJ)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights	
07:00	Aqaba (from Marka Airport)
08:30	Aqaba (from Marka Airport)
19:45	Tel Aviv (from QAA/Marka Airport)
20:30	Aqaba (from QAA/Marka Airport)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent offers condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday paid his condolences and those of His Majesty King Hussein to the Al Shoman, Al Baqi and Al Hilmi families over the death of Naeef Abdul Baqi, wife of Abdul Hamid Shoman, during a visit the Shoman Divan. Wishing the King long life, the families thanked the King and the Prince.

### Regent confers with Pakistani commander

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Pakistani Naval Forces Commander Lieutenant General Fasih Bukhari on Sunday discussed the situation in the region. Prince Hassan voiced Jordan's concern over the tension between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, and stressed the need for ending strained relations and defusing the crisis in a peaceful manner, based on international legitimacy. The Regent warned against any escalation that might lead to a sectarian war, which in turn would adversely affect Islamic states and threaten the region's stability and security. Prince Hassan called for fostering cooperation, dialogue and solidarity amongst Islamic countries. The Crown Prince conferred Al Istihsaq Medal of the First Order upon Gen. Bukhari. Attending the meeting were Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirza, Kashmiri, and Pakistani Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi.

### Companies win \$34m oil-for-food contracts

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty Jordanian companies have secured contracts worth \$34 million under a memorandum of understanding signed between Iraq and the U.N. Sanctions Committee under the oil-for-food deal. A source at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said Jordanian companies have secured a total of 42 contracts in the fourth phase of the oil-for-food deal worth \$60 million. These approvals include exports of vegetable oil, detergents, fodder, veterinary drugs, soap, drugs and other materials.

### Official appointments endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued on Sunday endorsing the appointments of Mohammad Smadi as president of the Aqaba Region Authority, Ibrahim Shah Zada as Jordan Television and Radio Corporation director general, Iyad Qattan as director general of the Press and Publications Department, and Bilal Hassan Tal as an adviser at the Prime Ministry.

### Police search for robbery suspects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police are looking for two men who on Saturday reportedly robbed a hotel of JD2,000 in the Yachudh suburb of Amman, according to official sources. The source said the two men entered the Samarkand Hotel at around 11:00 p.m., held up its owner with an automatic weapon and demanded money. The two then broke the hotel's front glass entrance-way and fled in a four-wheel drive vehicle. The owner recorded the license number of the escape vehicle and reported it to the authorities. Police said they are searching for the owner of the vehicle.

## Information minister highlights importance of media responsibility

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Nasser Judeh on Sunday called on journalists to focus on issues and topics that serve the nation and emphasised the importance of objectivity and accuracy, credibility and responsibility. Speaking at a meeting with Jordan Press Association President Seif Sherif and JPA council members, Judeh said: "The message of the mass media requires handling information with high sense of responsibility and credibility."

Judeh asked journalists to activate the role of a "disciplinary board" to address violations by some journalists, voicing hope that "some cases raised by the Press and Publications Department [could be referred] to the association instead of the court for action against violators."

The minister stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the ministry and the JPA to establish a mechanism in order to control violators of the Press and Publications Law "in a transparent manner that serves the Kingdom on one hand and safeguards journalism on the other."

For his part, Sherif said he commended the minister's gesture to hold such meetings with journalists. He also thanked Judeh for his visits to daily and weekly newspapers, which he said proves the government's intention to launch a "quiet and fruitful dialogue in a transparent and responsible manner."

## Conservationists welcome government pledge on dam's construction

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature on Sunday welcomed government assurances that it would coordinate with the society to prevent any environmental damage to Wadi Mujeb during construction of a diversion dam, due to start soon.

Society Director General Khaled Irani said he met with Minister of Water and Eoery Hani Mulki, Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh and other officials two weeks ago to discuss the impact of constructing a diversion dam at the confluence of Mujeb and Waleh valleys. In the heart of the Mujeb Nature Reserve.

"The government agreed to study the project carefully and promised to coordinate fully with the society regarding the issue," Irani told the Jordan Times.

Yehya Khaled, director of society's six nature reserves, covering 1,000 square kilometres, said the society supports any project that ensures sustainable development in the area.

"The society is totally aware of the importance of such water projects and it

is not against them as long as they do not harm the ecological system," he said.

According to Khaled, the society itself had proposed several alternative schemes for the diversion dam and is awaiting the government's response.

Mahasneh affirmed yesterday that the government will not allow construction of any project that could harm the Mujeb environment.

"The [Jordan Valley] Authority is still waiting for its consultants' report on the project," he said. "The society will be heavily involved in taking the final decision."

On Saturday, a consortium of international and local companies signed four agreements worth JD6.4 million with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to supervise and provide architectural services in the implementation of the JD180 million Integrated Project to Develop the Southern Ghor Area.

Wadi Mujeb is the main part of the river system flowing through the Mujeb Nature Reserve, which was established in 1986.

According to the society, Mujeb is one of the cleanest and least disturbed river systems left in Jordan.

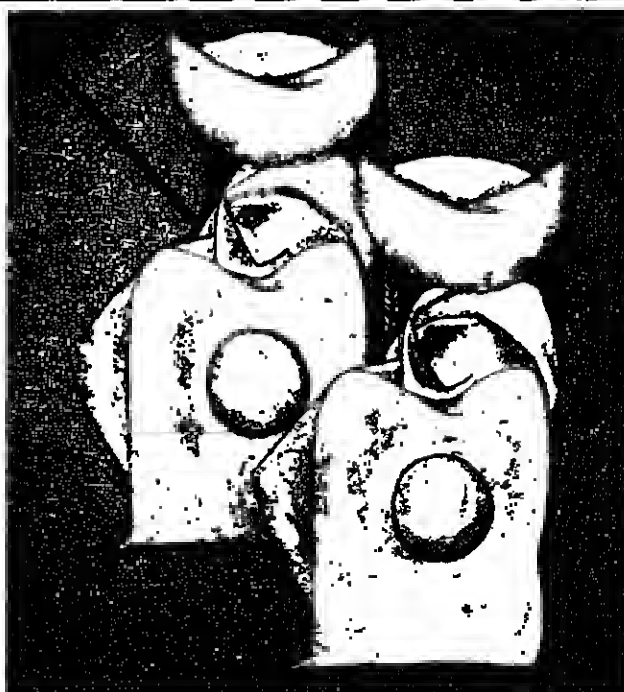
dan. It is part of the water catchment for the Dead Sea and always has flowing water, even in summer. It flows out to the Dead Sea through a narrow sandstone gorge lined with palm trees and lush vegetation.

A recent ecological survey conducted by the society concluded that Wadi Mujeb is "the single most important natural feature in the reserve."

"Several plant species growing there are found nowhere else in Jordan. It provides a refuge and watering place for several rare and endangered animals, such as the ibex, wild cats, Egyptian mongoose and Bonelli's eagle," said the survey.

The survey said the wadi and its tributaries are an ecosystem of national and regional importance and that much of its ecological interest depends on the existing hydrological conditions, including seasonal flash floods.

Operating under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the non-governmental society, which was formed in 1966, is planning to set up another seven nature reserves. It is responsible for protecting the Kingdom's natural resources, wildlife and wild areas.



'Sunset,' by Mona Saudi, one of the works on display at the exhibit (Photo courtesy Darat Al Funun)

## Exhibition traces history of Lebanese graphic art

AMMAN (J.T.) — The evolution of Lebanese graphic art over the last 50 years is currently on show at Darat Al Funun in Jabal Weibdeh.

On view are such renowned artists as Juliana Seraphim, who illustrated the book of the winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and Saïtha Douailhi, famous for her work in the U.S.

Examples of all the classical techniques in graphic art, such as woodcut, copper cut, burin, and dry point, can be seen developing over 50 years of Lebanese history, including the 1975-1990 civil war, which severely limited its practice although enriched its subjects.

History is what makes this exhibition unique. Leaving behind for a moment the quality of the exhibits, graphic art is unique amongst the fine arts in that it, more than others, shows a relation between societal and technological advances and its own development.

The history of printmaking in Lebanon began with

the introduction of an engraving workshop at the "Lebanese Association of Fine Arts" or ALBA, right after World War II.

After the 1950's and until 1983, a number of workshops opened in succession. From these subsequent workshops, talents such as Mohammad Rawas and Jamil Molaeh, who specialised in woodcut, sprang up, followed by printmakers like Aref Al Rayess, Yvonne Achkar, and Haroudoun Torossian, all of whom help make the art of print making, which was unknown to the public until the mid-sixties, into an art form widely popular and practised by many Lebanese artists both in Lebanon and abroad.

What matters in graphic art is the potential for artistic expression, the ability to create a vehicle for the intention and the creativity of the artist. The possibilities are then limitless.

The exhibition attempts to assess past work in its diversity and wealth.

The exhibition will run until Sept. 30.



**SARREBOURG, France (AFP)** — A cat which clearly does not share its fellow felines' fear of water flooded several flats in this town in northeast France Saturday. Firemen were called out before 8.00 a.m. after residents reported a leak from the third floor. They rang the bell but failed to rouse the occupants, a deaf-mute couple, from their slumbers. So they put up an extension ladder and managed to break into the flat through a balcony window, where they discovered an overflowed bathtub. The culprit was believed to be the couple's cat, found snoozing on a cushion. It had managed to turn on the taps, which operate by pressure, by jumping on them. The cat's rueful 20-year-old owners explained that this was not the first time. Unfortunately on this occasion the bathtub's plughole was blocked with a towel.



British aid workers held more than a year have been released Sunday. Camilla, a British psychologist, was released when they were freed in July last year. U.K. and they may be released. The British Foreign Office spokesman said they were in good health. "Shows the benefits of the ceasefire and the Russian region of one million. It has been swept by of its 1994-1996. Foreigners, including businessmen, have been much of the crime in work of armed gangs, the vicious war. The need that the kidnapping chenyas off the map for damaged its efforts to is at least partly on services.

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"Pi — A cat which clearly nes' fear of water flooded northeast France Saturday fore 8.00 a.m. after reat he third floor. They ring occupants. A dead cat e So they put up an exte break into the flat through y discovered an overflow believed to be the couple's shion. It had managed to by pressure, by jump- 20-year-old owner's first time. Unfortunately's plughole was blocked

# World News

## Malaysia police arrest sacked minister Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police arrested sacked Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim Sunday, hours after he led thousands of angry demonstrators through the streets of the capital calling on Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to resign.

Armed police led Anwar from his suburban home to a white police van as about 2,000 supporters shouted "Reformasi" (Reform) and "Long Live Anwar". About 100 riot police with shields and batons surrounded the van before it drove away with Anwar inside.

Anwar's lawyer Christopher Fernando told reporters inside Anwar's house that the former cabinet minister was being taken to federal police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to be indicted for sexual indecency.

Anwar's adopted brother and a former speechwriter pleaded guilty in court Saturday to being sodomised by Anwar. Sodomy is a crime in Malaysia.

Mahathir sacked Anwar as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept. 2, calling him morally unfit.

Anwar is under investigation for sodomy, treason, corruption and other crimes which he has denied, saying he was the victim of a conspiracy to end his political career.

Earlier Sunday, riot police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse thousands of angry protesters calling on Mahathir to step down after 17 years in power.

A phalanx of riot police with shields drove demonstrators away from the prime minister's official residence after they had marched through the streets of Kuala Lumpur in a rare public protest against Mahathir's 17-year-long rule.

At the foot of a hill leading to Mahathir's official residence, about 30 riot police with shields and batons charged the crowd of Anwar supporters, who threw rocks.

Police then fired several rounds of tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

The political unrest coincided with the arrival of Britain's, Queen Elizabeth in the Malaysian capital for a four-day visit and with the final hours of the 16th Commonwealth Games, which have drawn international attention towards Malaysia.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who had been scheduled to leave Kuala Lumpur Monday, said he had decided to remain with the queen until she was to leave Wednesday, due to the events in Malaysia.

Earlier Sunday, Anwar led about 30,000 protesters denouncing Mahathir, who has ruled the Southeast Asian nation since 1981 and leads a coalition with a crushing majority in parliament.

"This is the first time this has happened in Malaysia," Mamat, a 26-year old college lecturer among the demonstrators, told Reuters.

"People are very angry. We don't want Mahathir any more."

"People are angry at Mahathir," said a 21-year-old marcher who asked not to be identified. "Indonesia used to be a military country, the students took to the streets. We are very, very angry."

Mahathir dismissed Anwar's movement Sunday, calling it a "minor" distraction. Bolstered by the smooth running of the Commonwealth Games, which Queen Elizabeth was to close Monday, Mahathir said he could easily win a snap election.



Nicole Johnson from Virginia, walks down the centre runway after being named Miss America 1999 in Atlantic City (Reuters photo)

## Diabetic wins 1999 Miss America crown

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (R) — A 24-year-old diabetic wearing an insulin pump won the 1999 Miss America title Saturday and pledged to devote her one-year reign to raising awareness of the disease.

"I'm a normal girl. I'm not perfect. And Miss America should not be perfect," Miss Virginia, Nicole Johnson, a former intern for television evangelist Pat Robertson's CBN network, said after being crowned with the rhinestone tiara.

In 1995, the title was won by Heather Whitestone of Alabama, who is deaf. "There's something wrong with me. You can't see it. But everybody has something in their lives," a confident and articulate Johnson told reporters.

Johnson, who wants to become a national news anchor and to enter politics, clinched the title after wearing a two-piece ocean blue swimsuit and crooning the Frank Sinatra hit, "That's Life."

Johnson contracted diabetes from a flu virus at the age of 19. Recently, she has lobbied for legislation in her home state to gain insurance coverage for insulin pumps similar to the one she wears on her waist like a beeper.

## 'Afghan opposition rockets kill, wound 180'

KABUL (R) — Up to 180 people were killed or wounded when anti-Taliban forces fired their deadliest salvo into the Afghan capital for years, hitting a market and busy residential areas, a spokesman for the Taliban said on Sunday.

Senior spokesman Abdul Hay Mumeen told an independent news agency, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), that one missile struck a busy market area and another a residential suburb.

It was the worst attack on the battered Afghan capital for years and coincided with a major anti-opposition drive by the Taliban, which set it on collision course with Iran.

At least eight Russian-made Lunar and Uranus rockets struck the capital between mid-afternoon and dusk when people were going home to comply with an evening curfew, residents said.

One of the missiles fired by the forces of opposition leader Ahmed Shah Masood hit Bahrastan market to the west of the city, destroying shops and stalls and another a crowded northern suburb.

"The destruction is enormous and the casualties could go higher and higher than dozens of people," one resident of the

area told Reuters by telephone. Residents said they believed Masood's goal was to force the Taliban to withdraw men, airplanes and equipment from Wardak province, west of Kabul, where the militia is trying to link up with forces which seized the town of Bamian one week ago.

Masood's forces are at a military standoff with the Taliban only 25 km from the city centre and are its main enemy after Taliban successes against other opposition factions.

A Taliban spokesman said that if the attack continued the Taliban would bomb Masood's base in the Panjsher valley, some 120 km northeast of Kabul.

Masood has vowed to fight to the end against the Taliban and has an overland supply route from Tajikistan via the Ishkashim border in Badkshan.

Recent victories gave the Sunni Moslem militia control of more than 90 per cent of the country and unleashed a war of words with Iran after "renegade" Taliban fighters killed nine Iranian diplomats capturing opposition bastion Mazar-i-Sharif last month.

Shi'ite Iran has massed thousands of troops along its eastern

border in a show of strength against the Taliban which has pushed the Afghanistan issue onto the international agenda.

A so-called "six plus two" committee comprising Afghanistan's neighbours and Russia and the United States is due to meet at U.N. headquarters in New York on Monday to discuss the crisis between the Taliban and Iran.

Iran has complained bitterly about the killing of its officials and the Taliban, which is recognised by just three states as the government in Kabul, has accused Iran of killing Taliban prisoners and mistreating Afghan refugees.

The Taliban says that fighters acting without orders were responsible for the slayings of the Iranian diplomats and has vowed to catch and punish those responsible.

On Saturday it freed five captured Iranian drivers and handed them over to Iranian officials after mediation by Pakistan. It was the second such release since Mazar-i-Sharif fell but the Taliban says it has 45 other Iranian captives.

Iran backs Shi'ite forces such as Hezb-i-Wahdat, which lost control of the Shi'ite town of Bamian one week ago in a

lightning Taliban offensive aimed at burnishing its claim to be the legitimate government in Afghanistan.

Only Sunni Muslim states Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recognise the Taliban as the government.

The U.N. seat is occupied by the administration of Burhanuddin Rabbani, which was toppled by the Taliban in 1996.

The Taliban has written to the United Nations demanding that it take steps to end "Iranian interference" in Afghan affairs.

Iran denies charges that it armed and supplied Shi'ite factions.

At the very least, the Taliban want the United Nations to declare the Afghan seat vacant.

The Taliban denies charges by human rights groups that its forces slaughtered thousands when it captured Mazar-i-Sharif, the opposition's key stronghold, in August.

It accuses Iranian-backed forces of killing thousands of Taliban prisoners of war, of taking 15 Taliban prisoners from Bamian to Iranian jails and of allowing revenge killings of Afghan refugees in Iranian camps. Iran denies the charges.

## Pope beatifies founder of scandal-smearred Banco Ambrosiano

BRESCIA, Italy (AFP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday beatified the founder of Banco Ambrosiano, the Vatican-linked bank that collapsed in 1982 amid allegations of fraud.

Some 50,000 faithful joined the leaders of Italy's most important banks, themselves close to the Catholic hierarchy, to watch the Papal ceremony in a wealthy industrial town outside Milan.

"Giuseppe Tovini is today in the glory of paradise," the Pope declared in his speech. He then quoted the banker, saying:

"Our children without faith will never be rich, but thanks to faith they will never be poor."

The scandal surrounding the bank hit in 1981 when the Bank of Italy denounced its ruinous mismanagement and declared a chunk of nearly \$1.4 billion missing from one of its subsidiaries.

In 1982, the bank's last chairman, Roberto Calvi, was found hanging under Loodoo's Blackfriars Bridge in what was thought to be a suicide.

The story made head-

lines again recently when authorities announced they would exhume his body to determine whether he was murdered.

Earlier this month a key figure to the scandal, financier Licio Gelli, on the run from Italian authorities since May, was arrested in Cannes, France.

The Pope omitted any mention of the scandal during the mass, celebrated alongside 460 priests and 30 bishops from the region.

Instead, he concentrated

on the banker's loyalty to the church and involvement in "the good fight" for freedom in religious teaching and in favour of Catholic schools.

Tovini, father of 10 and staunch Catholic, was mayor of Brescia, ran several educational and Church projects and created the Catholic newspaper Il Cittadino di Brescia.

In 1896, a year before his death at the age of 56, he founded the Banco Ambrosiano, in which the Vatican subsequently took a 20 per cent stake.

## Sweden votes in election, PM confident

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedes voted in a general election Sunday which looked set to return a weakened minority Social Democrat (SDP) government to power.

Prime Minister Goran Persson, voting near his home in the southern port of Malmo, dismissed opinion polls showing the SDP had lost support since the last election in 1994.

"We have worked hard and had a good mood in our election workers," TT news agency quoted him as saying.

"If the Social Democrats now become the biggest party, we will just have to find a majority in parliament as usual."

Neither the SDP campaigning for a cautious expansion to Sweden's welfare state after several years of austerity, nor the main opposition Moderates, who want broad tax cuts, will win an outright majority, according to final opinion polls Saturday.

The two big parties will therefore be trying to cobble together support from the five smaller parties in parliament.

The SDP, in power for 57 of the last 66 years, has seen its

support fall to 37.0-38.3 per cent in the last polls on Saturday from 43.3 per cent in the last election in 1994.

The Moderates, led by former Prime Minister and international Bosnia mediator Carl Bildt, have edged up to 23.2-24.0 from 22.4 per cent.

But two other parties, the ex-communist Left Party and the environmentalist Greens, have made it clear that they would not support the centre-right coalition Bildt has formed.

Together the "socialist bloc" of SDP, Left and Greens can count on 53 to 55 per cent of votes for the 349-member parliament, according to the polls.

The SDP and Left, whose support has doubled since 1994, making it Sweden's third biggest party, may have a majority without the Greens, whose recent poll scores suggest they may not clear the four per cent hurdle needed to get into parliament.

It remains to be seen how comfortable the SDP would be with a strengthened Left Party, and any cooperation would soon face a test when the government presents the budget, due on Oct.

13.

The Left want the working week cut to 35 hours, big increases in spending and Sweden to leave the European Union.

Its popular leader Gudrun Schyman has played down the differences between Left Party and SDP economic policy, but Persson, a former finance minister respected by the markets for restoring Sweden's budget to health, remains wary.

"I want a strong Social Democratic government but I will not sit in one that starts adventuring with the state finances," Persson said Friday.

The SDP is happy to work as a minority government rather than coalition leader, and the result may be a series of shifting alliances in which it seeks support from the Left or centre-right parties depending on the policy under discussion.

"We have never talked of forming a coalition government with the Left Party and we've never thought it either," Persson said in Malmo.

The Left can argue that the surge in its support shows voters want the restraints on spending to be loosened, and more

resources put into Sweden's cradle-to-grave welfare state.

Although Sweden is the most highly taxed of the rich countries, opposition leader Bildt's call for tax cuts does not seem to have won much support.

"If we don't reduce taxes we won't be able to retain the standards of welfare spending," he told Reuters after voting.

Bildt said the welfare state was threatened by excessive spending on benefits for unemployment, now running at 7.3 per cent and acknowledged by Persson to be Sweden's number one problem.

Tax cuts were needed to create jobs, said Bildt, who also wants to bring eurosceptic Sweden into the single European currency as fast as possible.

Just as the SDP has seen a growth in support for a smaller socialist party, the Moderates have watched as support for the pro-family Christian Democrats, practising a kinder form of conservatism, has doubled.

Toutout was running at the normal high levels, election officials said, with about 85 per cent of the 6.7 million voters expected to show up.

## Hopes fade for 100 missing in Philippine shipwreck

NAIC, Philippines (R) — Hopes of finding alive more than 100 people still missing after a Philippine ferry sank in a storm faded Sunday as rescue boats found only bloated bodies.

Many of the 39 corpses so far recovered had life vests on, suggesting the victims were violently tossed around by the waves after jumping from the 13,935-tonne Princess of the Orient which sank Friday.

The coastguard said at least 311 passengers and crew, out of the 454 people aboard, survived the latest blot in the grim maritime safety record of this country of 7,000 islands, where ferries are the cheapest mode of inter-island transport.

Nearly 4,400 people died in 1987 when the ferry Dona Paz — owned by Sulphur Lines Inc, which also owns the Princess —

collided with an oil tanker off Mindoro island.

The company gave conflicting figures on the number of those on board and those who survived.

Earlier, it said the Princess carried 453 passengers and crew. Sunday, safety engineer Nelson Morales told Reuters an updated list showed the ship had 515 people on board and 334 of them had been rescued, leaving 181 still to be accounted for.

Morales later said they were still revising their numbers.

Rescue officials were pessimistic about any of the 105 passengers and crew listed by the coastguard as unaccounted for or missing still being alive, unless they had been washed ashore.

"We're still hoping that we can find some people alive but at the rate we're going, that seems quite dim. They are probably dead," Cavite provincial governor Ramon Revilla told Reuters.

"It's possible some of them are trapped in the ship below," added Revilla, who took part in searching the waters around Cavite, where several bodies turned up Saturday.

Fishermen found 11 bodies off Cavite Sunday, lashed them to their outrigger boats and dumped them on the beaches of an empty tourist resort in this town.

Village children, horror in their eyes, watched as fishermen returned from the sea at 30 minute intervals with their macabre catch.

The Princess sank in about 360 feet (60 fathoms) of water off Fortune Island, about 40 nautical miles south of Manila.

The 24-year-old boat, built in Japan and one of the Philippines' biggest ferries, capsized after being pummeled by winds and rains induced by storm Vicki two hours after it left Manila for central Cebu city.

"Today we've found only bodies," coastguard operations officer Archie Obille said. "Unless they have been washed ashore, the chances of anyone else surviving are slim."

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## Rights under interrogation

THE RELEASE on bail of nine Water Authority officials yesterday after their detention by the authorities in connection with the water contamination crisis is a welcome development.

The arrest on Saturday of the secretary general of the Water Authority, Munther Khleifat, and his assistant, Sa'ad Bakri, and other officials last week in connection with the water contamination case sends a clear signal that the authorities mean business in pursuing investigations into the water issue.

Amman Prosecutor Mohammad Harahsheh has also suggested that other officials may be detained in order to get to the bottom of things.

While we salute the government drive in charting a new course of governance based on accountability, the recent arrests and any others that may come reopen the debate on the protection of the constitutional rights of individuals under investigation.

The presumption of innocence, the foundation of all just judicial systems, stipulates that all individuals shall enjoy their basic rights and personal freedoms unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Only in certain cases should the accused be detained pending trial, namely when there is a risk of rigging of the evidence or when suspects pose a serious threat to society or public order.

In this regard, human rights activists have long protested the detention of journalists whenever a case is moved against them by the government or individuals.

In the cases of Khleifat and other Water Authority officials, we wonder whether a 14-day detention at Jweidh Prison was necessary. Perhaps suspension from office and confiscation of incriminating documents would have assured an equally transparent trial.

Jordanians are certainly supportive of the interrogation of all those implicated in the water crisis and welcome the determination of the government of Fayez Tarawneh to hold all officials at all levels accountable.

We trust that the judiciary will soon open investigations into other cases of criminal negligence and corruption, issues that touch the lives of Jordanians across the board.

But we all also want to keep in mind that real justice cannot be done at the expense of the law.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Raja Al 'Issa commented on the visit of two Norwegian officials to the Middle East to help revive the deadlocked peace process. He said the Palestinian National Authority and Israel requested their help during celebrations marking the anniversary of the Oslo peace accords. The envoys are Norway's special diplomatic envoy and Middle East expert, Terje Roed Larsen and his wife, a foreign ministry official. Al 'Issa said the Norwegian leadership appears very naive to put itself in such an embarrassing situation. What is the role of Norway if the United States, the world's major power, could not make the hardline Israeli leadership change its mind, he asked. Al 'Issa accused the Palestinians of being as naive as Norway for asking their help in pushing forward the peace process. The Palestinians, he argued, should realise that the whole thing is a play by Israel to hinder the peace march.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani argued for dissolving the Parliament and conducting new elections in which all political orientations take part. He said the new elections should be different to previous ones. The current Parliament does not represent all parties of society, said Momani. The Parliament should not only consider geographical aspects of the country if these ignore political pluralism, he added. According to Momani, the Parliament is not representative because the most influential parties in the Kingdom are absent. The writer blamed the former Parliament and government for opposition parties' boycott of the last elections. Momani said it is necessary at this stage that new elections are held since the government's policy is to make parties take part in sharing the responsibility. The government as executive authority and the opposition in Parliament, so everybody can serve the country from his point of view.

## Economic Review

## Towards a more altruistic society

Dr. Yusuf Mansur

"JORDANIANS ARE not philanthropic." This recent claim is based on the observation that there are no endowment of academic chairs, large contributions to charities, or multimillion-dollar donations to schools and welfare organisations. Beyond the Islamic "Waqf," a time-bound deed for a specific property, Jordan has very few Western-like charities. But what are the reasons for this lack of charity, if it may be called that? It may be caused by the fact that Jordanians are not as wealthy as their Western counterparts — even the most affluent Jordanians are not as well off in comparison with the "wealthy" of the Western hemisphere. Or maybe most Jordanians are already too altruistic, but to their extended families and relatives, of course such generosity cannot be publicised. Better still, some people may opt not to parade their good deeds because, in their religion or cultural environment, flaunting their acts nullifies the deed.

There may be a host of good reasons why charity is not observed in Jordan; indeed lack of observance of philanthropy may vary from one area to another. However, one type of charity that raises some interesting issues is the act of donating to a university or an academic institute. Of such a type of altruism only one or two prominent examples come to mind. Otherwise, Jordanian universities suffer from the private sector's lack of interest in academia, or so they think!

In fact, the shoe is on the other foot: Jordanian universities are not doing enough to attract donors. Universities basically rely on two types of private donors, alumni, and non-alumni. To capture the loyalty and love of the alumni the universities have to offer their students a decent education and/or excellent experiences.

However, to get the alumni to open their wallets and scribble several well-placed digits on their chequebooks is a different story, because this requires a lot of work by the universities. Universities have to have a current database on their graduates that is complete with addresses and work history — some even provide placement services. Then, send the alumni newsletters or brochures and hold functions and galas or festivals to celebrate the alumni and the success of the school. New students should be made aware of the glories achieved by those who attended before them. Sports teams must be encouraged and their matches must be made into absolutely necessary-to-attend events. These are the legends that students enjoy and carry with them as part of their happy school days. Traditions are thus established and memorabilia sold at events and in shops later on creating parallel income sources to colleges and universities.

Endowments of academic chairs like in the universities in the West are also non-existent. Why? It is customary that full professors are rewarded in Jordan by either becoming university presidents or ministers (if they have the political knack that is), or by being allowed to stay several years in the Gulf where the university pay is three times higher. The message relayed by the present reward system is that promising academic research must ultimately be stopped. On the other hand, in the West, endowed chairs provide supplements to usual salaries to attract the best research. Such endowments must be well advertised and given to deserving people if they are to have any value and, consequently, survive. In other words, donors must trust the universities they are donating their funds to, otherwise the deed is wast-

ed. But one must look at the way research is conducted in our universities and witness some of the mundane rules and policies that are implemented to render research irrelevant and, in many cases, pitiful. In fact, very few scholars in economics are able to publish their works in international journals because of the rigid and meaningless requirement that the young assistant professor's research should not use any material from his/her dissertation. Such a requirement should never have been made or even thought of. Not only does it destroy any opportunity for the scholar to publish a work which took several years to conclude, it abates the opportunity for the university to become well-known outside Jordan through a possibly first rate, scholarly research. Such a rule simply forces one to forget his/her best piece of research conducted in almost an ideal environment. That is now how you make an endowment-quality researcher.

Therefore, the claim that Jordanians are not philanthropic may require further investigation. Indeed, the donors may be there, but the nonchalant carefree attitude of those that need the money may possibly be the cause for the non-transaction. The institutes must think like the private sector or like universities in the West, or simply wait for another government handout, which may or may never come. This is not a call to privatise universities — which may be a great idea — but a call to have them review their policies and re-evaluate their students as potential donors. After all, one good deed deserves another, or is it the reverse? Let's not wait too long.



## Why is civilisation so cruel?

Editor's note: This is the second part of a trilogy on the 'real history of the human race'. Part three will appear next week.

By Gwynne Dyer

ABOUT 10,000 years ago, 'history' proper got started, in the sense that we know some specific facts about particular groups. By 7,000 years ago, we even know a few names. But it is a terrible history, full of conquest and slavery — and it ended up fifty years ago with Europeans and their descendants running the whole world except for a few parts of Asia.

As a result, we still tend to believe that human beings are naturally inclined to conquest and oppression. We are also haunted by the racist dogmas of the recent past, which explained European success by inventing a racial pecking order that put Europeans at the top. But new facts and concepts have emerged in the past decade that offer a different explanation.

Conquest and amalgamation are the historical reality. From the twenty or maybe even fifty thousand very small groups that filled the world ten millennia ago, we have now arrived at a world where 95 per cent of the world's people speak a mere fifty lan-

guages. Indeed, only ten languages (Chinese, English, Hindi, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Indonesian, Portuguese, French, and Japanese) account for half of the world's population.

The 'linguistic steamrollers' that imposed this amalgamation on the world, it is becoming clear, were often driven by a single technological advance. For example, the domestication of the horse by 'barbarians' in what is now southern Ukraine enabled them to overrun almost all the early agricultural civilisations of the Fertile Crescent, Europe, and northern India. As a result, languages derived from their original Indo-European tongue are now spoken by over two billion of the world's six billion people.

But the harder question is why so many of the key advances, from the domestication of the best food crops to the invention of guns and ocean-going ships, occurred in Eurasia. Why did other continents (the Americas, Africa, and Australia) lag so far behind that they were eventually invaded and overrun?

The answer is that the dice were loaded — by geography. As Jared Diamond, a professor of physiology at UCLA who has become one of the most articulate exponents of the 'new metahistory', puts it: "History unfolded differently on different continents because of differences among continental environments. NOT because of biological differences among peoples."

Europe and Asia are really just one huge continent, and if you ignore regions covered by icecaps (Antarctica, Greenland, etc.) then Eurasia accounts for over 40 per cent of the world's habitable land area. Not all that many wild plants and wild animals are suitable for domestication, and Eurasia started out with at least half of them (particularly in the Fertile Crescent and the Chinese river valleys).

This initial advantage was compounded by Eurasia's east-west geography. There are local climate variations, but essentially it is a unified climatic zone, with no major physical barriers, stretching 10,000 km. (6,000 miles) from the North Sea to the Sea of Japan. Any newly domesticated plant or animal — and any new technology — spread along the whole of this east-west corridor (what much later became the Silk Route) in only a few centuries.

All Europeans and Asians had access to any advance made anywhere in Eurasia, whereas the early agriculturalists in other continents had to make do with the paltry few plants and animals they could domesticate locally. Eurasia had a far more productive agriculture, hence bigger populations and more people freed from growing food to work on technological innovation — and so bigger armies, better weapons, bigger empires.

And there was one other great Eurasian advantage (though it often felt like a curse): their diseases. In the crowded cities of Eurasia, where people and animals often lived under the same roof and passed their diseases back and forth, virulent new sicknesses evolved that were really only viable in such dense populations.

Tens of millions of Eurasians died of these diseases, from smallpox to the black plague, but the survivors developed a good deal of immunity over the centuries. The other continents, with less dense populations, had no comparable diseases — and no immunities. So if those diseases ever travelled across the oceans, the people at the far end were facing near-extinction. And eventually they did travel.

"Wherever the European had trod, death seems to pursue the aboriginal," wrote Charles Darwin in 1839. Both Charles Darwin and the Europeans had the technology to cross the oceans by the 15th century, and the outcome would have been the same for the rest of the world whether it had been invaded by the western or the eastern Eurasians. But the Ming emperor of China banned further ocean voyages in 1433, which left the field clear for the Europeans.

Alfred Crosby of the University of Texas, who did the key work on the impact of disease in the 'new Europe' overseas, estimates that 90 per cent of the deaths that reduced the aboriginal peoples of the Americas and Australia to tiny minorities in their own lands in only a few centuries were caused by European diseases.

Guns did the rest of the work, but where military superiority was the only European advantage — as in Asia and even in Africa (whose inhabitants had long been exposed to Eurasian diseases, and had some of their own to pass on in return) — the conquest lasted only a century or two, and the original population remained the overwhelming majority.

Neither the germs nor the guns were any kind of proof of European 'superiority'. What made the difference was geography.

## Corrections

IN AN article entitled "Zai plant now pumping at full capacity — official" (Jordan Times, Sunday 20, 1998), Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Duraid Mahasneh was erroneously quoted as saying that "at least the water provided by the Zai plant is now free of nematodes and faecal coliforms." The phrase "faecal coliforms" was in fact never mentioned by Mahasneh. The Jordan Times regrets any inconveniences caused by this error.

ALSO, ON the same day, the article "Water Ministry signs JD6.4m deals for infrastructure improvements" reported that the money would be invested in the 'Integrated Project to Develop the Northern Ghor Area'. It should have been the 'Southern Ghor Area'.

The writer is Professor of Middle Eastern History and Political Science and Director of the Middle East Research Programme at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Twenty years after Camp David: A look back into the future

By Kenneth W. Stein

WITH SUDDENNESS, Egyptian President Sadat died the unexpected. On November 19, 1977, he flew to Israel. Speaking from the Knesset podium with Herzl's picture behind him, he accepted Israel as a reality. He told an attentive world that if Israel wanted peace, they had to withdraw from all of the territories taken in the June 1967 Middle East war.

Sadat's primary goal was the return of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty. That had been his objective since going to war in October 1973. Half of it was returned via diplomacy, but the process of getting it all was stalled.

During Carter's first year in office, he tried to resolve the Israeli conflict with bare fists, not velvet gloves, in public view, not behind closed diplomatic doors. Those efforts frustrated, showed, threatened, befriended, and alienated Arabs and Israelis alike. After Kissinger's successful step-by-step diplomacy, Carter tried to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in a comprehensive manner. He invited the Russians to be co-conveners at a Middle East conference and defined a way for low level PLO members to be part of a unified Arab delegation.

Though impressed with Carter's commitment, Sadat grew impatient with the details involved in arranging for a conference and especially the dilly-dallying of his Arab contemporaries. In going to Jerusalem he wanted to create diplomatic momentum.

Five weeks later, on Christmas day, Israeli Prime Minister

Menachem Begin made a return visit to Egypt. He brought with him a proposal for Palestinian autonomy. Begin shifted the focus. He wanted to exchange Sinai for the right of the Palestinians to have self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Several dozen areas of Palestinian municipal prerogatives were to be exchanged for a peace treaty with the most powerful Arab state. Judea and Samaria would not be put under a foreign sovereignty.

In an angry reaction to Begin's visit and offer, Sadat told the American ambassador in Cairo, "This was the most insulting meeting. He was my guest, so I had to be polite to him, but don't ever expect me to talk to him again. I will talk to the Americans, but not to him, because he's a shop keeper — a nickel and dime here and there. He has these little proposals about self-rule and so forth. I just offered him peace and no more war. I've gone to Jerusalem, and he comes here, and he gives me this lousy piece of paper."

That visit proved that Begin and Sadat could not make substantive progress. Sadat wanted Begin to withdraw from Sinai, but Begin was in no hurry. They talked, passed each other. Their personalities clashed. There was no chemistry between them. Begin the lawyer, the man of detail; Sadat the president, interested in the grand gesture.

During the next eight months no formal agreement was reached between them. Carter, his comprehensive peace idea thrown off course remained determined to find an Egyptian-Israeli agreement. Carter invited Sadat and

Begin to the presidential retreat at Camp David. Engineer, word-smith, and problem solver that he was, Carter believed that he could put these square political leaders into the same diplomatic round hole. He did that in September 1978.

The Camp David Accords were not perfect. One part outlined the contents of a future Egyptian-Israeli treaty relationship, the second was a fleshed-out version of Begin's autonomy plan. Disagreements and distrust that pre-dated the Camp David Accords were not removed in document signing ceremonies. Bad feelings carried over to the definition of their subsequent non-belligerent relationship. In his memoirs, Carter admitted that one of his mistakes at Camp David was allowing Sadat to persuade him that he could speak on behalf of Jordan and the Palestinians.

Then when all avenues of additional progress failed, Carter gambled with a brief presidential trip to Egypt and Israel, tying up the last loose ends for the March 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Peace treaty. It was vintage Carter: he had faith in his ability to solve the problem and knowledge that he was dealing with two leaders who wanted to make a deal. Subsequent further progress in Arab-Israeli negotiations stalled because of disagreements over the definition of Palestinian autonomy, the building and expansion of Israeli settlements, and America's Middle East focus aimed at events in and around the Persian Gulf. But the process of separating Palestinians from Israelis was set in motion; it was upheld in the 1993 Oslo

Accords.

For the United States in the 1970s, Washington was helping two very strong political leaders who knew what they wanted. Twenty years after Camp David, in order to achieve diplomatic progress, the U.S. has to persuade weaker political leaders. Arafat and Netanyahu are more sure of what they do not want, than what they require. Both understand compromise but only in so far as it relates to their personal power and continuation in office. Rather than alienating opponents and standing on principles, each specialises in political expediency. Both are masters at making compromises of temporary convenience. Also, there is an absence of dedicated and determined leadership at the White House. If there is political will and political courage, it is aimed at domestic affairs.

No matter how much he alienated Israelis, American Jews, or Arabs, Jimmy Carter's presidential contribution to winding down the Arab-Israeli conflict was unprecedented. In foreign policy matters, the Oval Office still has enormous political clout. It is sitting there waiting to be fully used. The Camp David Accords are a vivid reminder of what can be done when there are leaders who want to make a deal for the next generation and not just satisfy either personal needs, the next succession, or a future election.

The writer is Professor of Middle Eastern History and Political Science and Director of the Middle East Research Programme at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Jordan Times seeks to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the Jordan Times at the numbers mentioned elsewhere on this page.







## Support for single EU currency at record high

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Support for the European single currency has risen to a record high of 60 per cent across the EU (European Union) and, for the first time, a majority of Germans now back the euro, according to poll results published by the European Commission.

The level of support across the 15 EU countries in polls carried out between April and May of this year was 10 per cent higher than in the

autumn of 1997.

In the 11 countries which will adopt the euro on Jan. 1 of next year, support for monetary union reached 66 per cent.

In Austria (56 per cent support), Finland (53 per cent) and Germany (51 per cent), it was the first time that a majority of citizens expressed support for the project.

Among the countries which will not join the euro from its launch, support levels in

Greece (67 per cent) are nearly twice as high as in Sweden, where 39 per cent support the euro, and Britain and Denmark, which both had a 34 per cent level.

Unlike Greece, which failed to qualify for the launch next year but is aiming to be ready by 2001, the other three countries have yet to decide whether they will join at all.

In all three cases however support for the single currency

is rising and the level of

outright opposition is falling. In Britain's case, the level of opposition to the euro fell to 49 per cent, down 10 per cent from the autumn of 1997, with a more than one in six (17 per cent) of citizens undecided.

Meanwhile, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, said in an interview in the French daily Le Figaro that the future European single currency was a "shield" against economic and monetary upheaval.

He said the euro "prevents European economies being sucked into the economic and monetary maelstrom" affecting other parts of the world.

"The euro comes at a timely moment" to "shelter" the European economies from the crises in Asia and in Russia, he said.

"Monetary union is the best response to the challenges of the future. The euro will not solve all the problems but it is a factor of stabilisation. Up to now, all the hopes placed in it have been fulfilled and none of the fears have proved

grounded," Waigel said.

In Tokyo, Deutsche Bank Group's chief economist Norbert Walter forecast the euro will present a serious challenge to the dollar as an anchor for Asia.

"It is very likely that Asian enterprises and countries who are trading partners with Europe will increasingly use the euro for foreign trade and foreign exchange transactions," he told Japanese company chiefs.

"The evidence suggests that the euro can gain a world market share of about 35 per cent over the next 10 years," Walter told a seminar at Deutsche Bank's Japan headquarters.

"The euro's share in world currency reserves could also grow to the same level over the medium term but that will occur only if the big reserve holders in Asia start to diversify their foreign exchange reserves," he said.

Walter said the euro would create a single European market rivaling the United States' in size.

### The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Transport Construction and Operating Concession of a Light Rail System between Amman and Zarqa Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of Jordan is seeking expressions of interest from firms for the construction and operation of an electrified Light Rail System (LRS) between Amman and Zarqa.

There are two separate parts requested in this Expression of Interest: (1) an operating concession of the LRS (the "concessionaire"); (2) construction of the LRS (the "constructor"). Bidders can respond to one or both parts.

Part (1) the operating concession includes:

- Operation and maintenance of the LRS;
- Acquisition of all required rolling stock and maintenance equipment; and
- Construction of necessary buildings.

While the concessionaire will not be expected to finance the construction of the line, amounts equal to loan repayments for such construction, reflected in an "infrastructure provision" charge, must be incorporated in the concessionaire's projected operating costs.

Estimates of LRS ridership in the opening year are on the order of 40,000 passengers per day, based on surveys of 1998 total corridor ridership. Recent surveys of bus passengers indicate dissatisfaction with current bus services in Amman and a strong willingness to support a future LRS. A ten-minute headway is envisaged during peak hours.

Part (2) the line construction includes:

The construction of a double track electrified standard gauge line (1435 mm). Construction costs have been estimated at approximately JD28 million. This includes civil works, land acquisition, track work, intermediate stations, catenary, sub stations and signalling systems. Local developers are expected to construct the two terminal stations. Such local development could be a part of a successful bidder's package.

The Government of Jordan is currently seeking an acceptable financing package for the LRS construction.

The LRS will be constructed within the existing right-of-way of the Hedjaz Railway over the 23 kilometres between Al Mahattah and New Zarqa; and another 3 kilometres within the street system of Amman. Some additional cut and fill will be necessary within the Hedjaz Railway right-of-way.

The development of an efficient LRS will be of great benefit to the people of the Greater Amman urban area and will result in a more efficient use of transport resources in the country. The government is looking for experienced railway operators and constructors, with financial and technical capability to undertake this project. The government is seeking Expressions of Interest from firms or consortia with the following financial and operating capabilities:

- average annual turnover (defined as works in progress and completed) over the last five years of at least the equivalent of US\$100 million in the case of the constructor; US\$50 million in the case of the operator; and
- strong experience in the development, implementation and operation of urban light rail systems. This experience should also include procurement of rail equipment, provision of maintenance services and management.

If your firm or consortium meets these conditions, we would be pleased to receive an indication of interest, accompanied by a statement of your qualifications and capabilities. Please also indicate if you wish to bid for part (1) the "concessionaire", or part (2) the "constructor", or both.

A competitive bidding process will be used for the selection of the concessionaire and the constructor. We will review the responses to this Expression of Interest and will prepare a short list of candidates for the next stage, which will be submission of Requests for Proposals (RFP), both technical and financial. Announcement of the short list and issuing of the RFP will take place in early November, 1998.

The implementation of the concession is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport which has engaged PADECO Co. Ltd., to assist.

Please forward your Expressions of Interest to reach Amman not later than October 30, 1998, to the attention of:

Nasser Lawzi  
Minister of Transport  
Ministry of Transport  
Government of Jordan  
P.O. Box 35214  
Amman 11180  
Jordan  
Telephone: 962 6 551 8111  
Fax: 962 6 552 7233

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### The Business of Information

Prices as at 20/09/98 6:57

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.6941	0.6948	1.3933	132.10	1.5243	1675.20	1.9102	6.6840	
DE Mark	0.6903	-	0.3809	0.8225	77.97	0.8995	988.65	1.1276	3.3547
GB Sterling	1.6613	2.8482	-	2.3426	222.16	2.5628	2816.01	3.2110	9.5548
CH Franc	0.7177	121.50	0.4263	-	94.78	1.0932	1201.48	137.00	4.0766
JP Yen	0.0076	1.2818	0.4497	1.0542	-	1.1533	12.67	144.53	4.3005
CA Dollar	0.8560	1.1110	0.3898	0.9138	1.16	-	1098.64	1.2628	3.7277
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0111	0.3548	0.8632	1269.52	0.9097	-	11.40	3.3923
NL Guilder	0.5235	88.66	0.3112	72.94	69.11	0.7978	876.76	-	2.9748
FR Franc	0.1759	0.2980	0.1046	24.5084	23.22	0.2691	33.60	33.6000	-

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7606	0.3770	3.6398	0.3038	3.6727	1512.50	3.4025
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2900	0.8317	5.1337	0.4285	5.1801	2133.29	4.7980
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98	403.27	0.9072
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9491	-	9.66	0.8059	9.74	4012.16	9.0256
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0835	1.01	415.54	0.9348
Kuwait Dinar	3.2916	2.3338	12.3456	1.2409	11.98	-	12.09	4978.60	0.9348
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	0.1026	0.9810	0.0827	-	411.82	0.9264
Lebanese/1000	0.66	0.4688	2.4797	0.2492	2.4065	0.2009	2.4282	-	2.2496
Egyptian	0.2539	0.2084	1.1023	0.1108	1.0897	0.0893	1.0794	444.53	-

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4616	0.16195	0.37175	35.2398
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4614	0.16195	0.37175	35.2398
KW Dinar	3.2916	5.5724	1.95771	4.58926	434.972
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.49438	1.57778	3.69822	380.631
CY Pound	1.9904	3.3719	1.1836	2.7732	262.932

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.706	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1898	1.1957
DE Mark	0.4172	0.4193
CH Franc	0.5072	0.5097
FR Franc	0.1244	0.125
JP Yen	0.533	0.5357
NL Guilder	0.37	0.3719
IT Lira	0.4221	0.4242

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York	DOW JONES	7886.66	21.89	0.28	7890.67	7872.94	7873.77
New York	S&P 500	1020.09	1.22	0.12	1022.01	1011.86	1018.87
London	FT-SE 100	5055.6	-77.3	-1.51	5162.2	5034.7	5132.9
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	13983.12	123.98	0.89	14006.1	13997.8	13889.1
Paris	CAC 40	3465.22	-60.04	-1.7	3509.63	3439.56	3525.26
Frankfurt	DAX	4598.58	-70.93	-1.52	4769.91	4554.36	4659.81

### Yemen earns \$255m from oil

SANAA (R) — Yemen's earnings from oil exports during the first six months of 1998 reached \$254.58 million, an oil ministry official has said.

The official told Reuters that oil income for the whole of 1997 reached \$1.012 billion. In the six months to June, local consumption reached 15.55 million barrels while exports reached 20.53 million barrels.

Yemen is a small independent oil producer, which pumps about 380,000 barrels per day.

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### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Flower with velvety petals
- Road safety grp.
- Aid in wrong-doing
- Make joyful
- Legal action grp.
- Sample tape
- On reflection
- Retain
- Phone co.
- King or Lombard
- Very dry
- Like utilities
- "Get Shorty" author Leonard
- Flow back
- 1998 Olympic Games city
- Explorer Vasco da
- H. Hughes airline
- Debatable point
- New Testament section
- Crude shatters
- Old-time actor
- Novaro
- Art stands
- Lodging establishments
- Permanently
- Nobel Prize winner
- Morrison
- Conspicuous successes
- Domino dot
- High muckmucks
- How dare you!
- European eagle
- Top-drawer
- Mr. T's group
- Checkers side
- Hiker's shelter
- Color changers

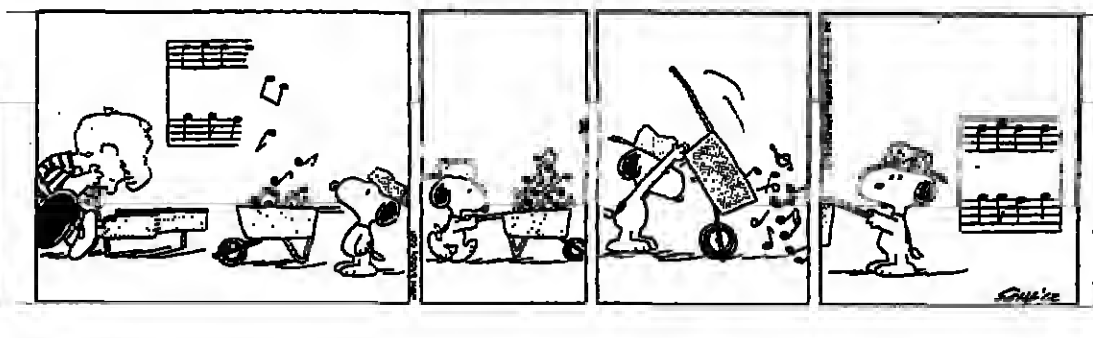
DOWN

- Quarter bushel
- Lotion
- Ingredient, often
- Identify
- Leaves briefly
- So far
- Photo finish
- Suffer stillness
- MCII halved
- Lazy pupil's headwear
- Idolized
- Premature
- Writer Zola
- Lugged
- Fairy-tale monster
- "Kiss Me..."
- First name in mysteries
- Office notes
- Selling girl
- of faith
- Ancestral home
- Inflatable boats
- Hair of a sheep
- Blind and Jilian
- Current regulator
- Press
- Birth
- Playing marbles
- Boozers
- Pueblo people
- Smaller number
- Earthy pigment
- Country occupied by
- China
- Fit about aimlessly
- fixe (obsession)
- Shapely fruit
- Houston and Huff
- Gardener's implement
- Fit about aimlessly

SECS CBER ALLOW  
CLAP LEGA LOIRE  
AGRA AOIN TOSCA  
LAB GRITTLSTAR  
PROGRAM IRE  
NIAS OFFENDER  
SASSY LURED OLE  
LOTT OUTER RUIN  
ANA ALLOT TIBET  
WEREWOLF SELL  
LAW STALEST  
EVENINGSTAR SHE  
LIMIT RIOT STOP  
BEINE INRE SANE  
AISTOR DEED TREE

By Gerald R. Ferguson  
Portland, OR

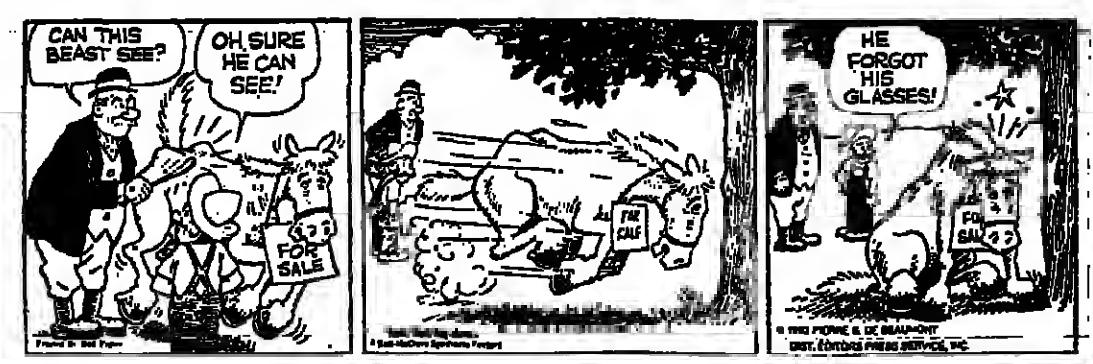
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



### JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ADDEJ

VORAF

TUFLAR

TABEED

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: JETTY SAVOR SHANTY INDIGO

Answer: What the ex-playboy got when he planted his feet firmly on the ground — DIRTY SHOES



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Study finds local councils having little interest in income-generating projects

**MANY LOCAL** councils borrow from the Cities and Villages Development Bank funds that far exceed their ability to honour the obligations which could arise from such borrowing, a study prepared by a committee has shown. By agreeing to pay 24 per cent of their budget to repay the loans, such a high rate, when taken for each council separately, increases the suffering of the local councils and weakens their ability to use the available funds which go to repayment of instalments and interest.

The study, prepared by the Local Councils Committee within the framework of the five-year (1999-2003) social and economic plan, said most of the budgets of local councils are characterised by deficits. The study attributed the deficits to financial mismanagement represented in the weak capability of local councils to use the available funds in a proper way. This leads to burdening the councils with additional financial costs as a result of not paying due consideration to financial flows and not knowing the right time for spending.

The mismanagement is also manifested in spending more than what could be obtained annually in addition to higher administrative expenditures arising from random appointments in local councils. This has caused accumulated deficits in the budgets, the study said revealing that spending on salaries has exceeded more than 43 per cent of total expenditure.

Khaled Tarawneh, director of regional planning and the committee's secretary, pointed out that many councils resort to augmenting their budgets when the actual budgets for most of the councils do not exceed 66 per cent of their estimated budgets. He explained that as a result of exagger-

ating the revenue estimate, the councils end up projecting additional expenditures which cannot be financed as a result of extra revenues not being realised. "This leads in the end result to posting a deficit from spending in excess of income," Tarawneh said.

He added that the high cost of expropriating the lands necessary for public facilities such as roads, parks, cemeteries and parking areas has led to local councils being unable to meet their financial obligations. Tarawneh indicated that local councils used to shoulder in the past the cost of expropriating lands for building schools and other government departments and that has put an extra burden on them.

The committee secretary blamed the local councils for not using their authority in imposing some fees and taxes. That has deprived the local councils from extra resources of funds to finance their increased spending. Furthermore, Tarawneh said, expanding the structure of municipalities and village councils has minimised the allocation of funds for each municipality from the returns that the government collects for local councils.

Finally, he pointed out that the local councils showed minimal interest in income-generating projects compared to service project. Such an attitude has deprived the local council from permanent and renewable sources of income that would have enabled them to depend on themselves and lower the budget deficit. The study showed that earnings from income-generating projects did not represent more than six per cent of the total earnings of local councils (Al Dustour).

### Back wages bring some Russians to breaking point

**MOSCOW (AP)** — One man burned himself to death, exasperated that he hadn't been paid in two years. Another unpaid man beat to death the shop owner who owed him his money. And an angry mob of workers took their boss's hostage to demand overdue salaries.

Millions of Russians have been receiving their salaries months late, if at all, during the country's financial crisis.

Most have managed to scrape by, and while there have been demonstrations and strikes, there's been virtually no unrest despite the severity of the problem. But several separate incidents around the country showed how frustrated and angry some unpaid workers have become.

In the southern city of Krasnodar, locksmith Vladimir Rybalko had already opened the window of his upper-floor apartment and was about to jump out when his wife managed to stop him. He later doused his clothes with gasoline and set himself on fire. He died in the hospital.

"They pushed me to the limit, I can't bear it any longer. They haven't been paying me for two years," he wrote in a letter, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

## Government wants to identify parties interested in rail project

By Ghadeer Taher

**AMMAN** — The government, reviving a decades-old project, Saturday invited companies to submit expressions of interest for the construction and operation of an electric light rail system connecting downtown Amman and Zarqa.

In advertisements published in Jordan's local Arabic-language dailies, the Ministry of Transport asked potential bidders to send letters of interest along with their qualifications to carry out the project, which will use the same historic Hijaz corridor between Zarqa and Hashemiyeh Plaza.

Companies can bid for the construction of the 26-kilometre double track electrified standard gauge line, which is expected to cost JD28 million, and/or the operation of the modern passenger railway.

The government will pay for the construction of the track, after which it will lease it to the operating concessionaire, who will supply the trains and all other necessary equipment to operate and maintain the system, explained a ministry official.

The light rail project, which has been bogged down for years because it was found not feasible, is expected to solve many transportation gluts and pollution problems.

Foreign firms had shied away from the project because the government had originally expected them to finance the construction of the track, making any return on their investment negligible, an industry expert explained.

According to officials, the project can be operational within three years.

Recent surveys conducted by the

ministry indicate that an estimated 40,000 passengers will use the light rail on a daily basis in the first year of operation. Most Zarqa-Amman commuters have complained of the inefficient public and private transportation system running along the busiest route in the country.

After receiving the expressions of interest, the transport ministry will shortlist the candidates for the next stage, which will be the submission of financial and technical proposals. The ministry expects to shortlist the companies and issue the tenders by early November.

The project, if it materialises and succeeds, will be the first phase of a railway network that will eventually be expanded to other congested areas of the Kingdom, including Hashemiyeh, Abdali, University of Jordan and Sweileh.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAHNI										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 20/09/1998										
P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRNS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
18.1	9.20	26	480	105938	221.00	221.00	-			
13.4	4.24	5	1880	3087	1.65	1.65	-			
E	0.00	2	5100	5151	1.02	1.01	-0.01			
11.1	6.56	5	3550	5609	1.59	1.58	-0.01			
17.9	3.53	56	48714	135154	2.84	2.83	-0.01			
.8	0.00	5	673	1203	1.78	1.79	+0.01			
17.3	0.00	5	6250	3500	0.77	0.76	-0.01			
22.8	3.38	7	5350	7918	1.48	1.48	-			
P	0.00	16	39850	26842	0.69	0.67	-0.02			
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
288.58	CHNG: -0.07	134	112745	296662						
7.4	9.43	2	250	663	2.65	2.65	-			
9.3	0.00	1	5000	9700	1.98	1.94	-0.04			
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
126.39	CHNG: -0.22	3	5250	10363						
9.5	5.61	47	36550	53185	1.47	1.47	-			
29.9	0.00	9	3750	2803	0.76	0.75	-0.01			
13.7	0.00	9	448	652	0.49	0.49	-			
g	0.00	6	10600	2700	0.28	0.27	-0.01			
g	0.00	2	8500	9265	1.09	1.09	-			
2.6	0.00	9	8600	16750	1.95	1.94	-0.01			
20.5	0.00	2	1050	935	0.89	0.89	-			
5.0	9.73	5	2350	2641	1.12	1.13	+0.01			
1.4	5.90	1	100	109	1.09	1.09	-			
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
106.13	CHNG: -0.09	83	71548	88838						
11.2	5.82	13	18965	36463	1.92	1.89	-0.03			
10.3	8.40	11	462	4884	10.55	10.58	+0.03			
66.2	0.00	1	100	112	1.14	1.12	-0.02			
7.4	0.00	10	2900	7014	2.32	2.32	-			
4.9	8.85	1	150	170	1.34	1.13	-0.21			
9.0	9.17	2	200	219	1.10	1.09	-0.01			
6.6	6.41	4	550	3013	5.90	5.46	-0.44			
12.8	16.45	3	3050	5277	1.75	1.73	-0.02			
13.5	0.00	12	8750	3414	0.40	0.40	-			
23.5	0.00	1	150	116	0.80	0.77	-0.03			
g	0.00	6	2600	962	0.39	0.37	-0.02			
g	0.00	24	35775	10750	0.32	0.30	-0.02			
g	0.00	8	4700	1707	0.35	0.37	+0.02			
9.8	8.33	3	350	136	0.77	0.76	-0.01			
33.2	0.00	5	2300	1643	0.73	0.71	-0.02			
7.6	0.00	12	8000	3200	0.41	0.40	-0.01			
13.0	4.72	2	250	445	1.28	1.27	-0.01			
g	0.00	1	500	225	0.48	0.45	-0.03			
10.7	8.96	15	9700	6529	0.69	0.67	-0.02			
g	0.00	21	9400	4606	0.51	0.49	-0.02			
9.0	15.93	15	4350	2737	0.62	0.61	-0.01			
42.2	15.93	15	12300	14760	1.20	1.20	-			
5.2	5.66	34	19644	20847	1.07	1.03	-0.04			
9.6	8.14	10	11500	9888	0.85	0.86	+0.01			
33.7	0.00	20	11447	7761	0.68	0.68	-			
10.0	0.00	1	3000	1650	0.55	0.55	-			
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
78.72	CHNG: +0.46	332	171193	149526						
GRAND TOTAL										
173.67	CHNG: +0.16	452	360736	545588						
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 20/09/1998										
8	0.00	1	100	81	0.85	0.81	-0.04			
E	0.00	1	250	215	0.90	0.86	-0.04			
g	0.00	1	200	56	0.29	0.28	-0.01			
g	0.00	4	1700	425	0.25	0.25	-			
g	0.00	16	29500	4720	0.15	0.16	+0.01			
g	0.00	4	1500	450	0.32	0.30	-0.02			
27.6	0.00	12	27650	6641	0.25	0.24	-0.01			
P	0.00	1	250	63	0.26	0.25	-0.01			
13.6	0.00	29	49550	12496	0.28	0.27	-0.01			
13.6	5.84	8	50750	100764	2.16	2.14	-0.02			
E	0.00	3	750	458	0.62	0.61	-0.01			
g	0.00	10	13800	2898	0.21	0.21	-			
9.2	0.00	2	1500	525	0.35	0.35	-			
g	0.00	2	1300	825	0.65	0.65	-			
E	0.00	4	1850	556	0.31	0.31	-			
g	0.00	5	50000	25500	0.51	0.51	-			
g	0.00	8	16100	12100	0.34	0.34	-			
10.8	10.67	3	1500	1065	0.72	0.71	-0.01			
GRAND TOTAL										
116	246902	163971								
* : New 12 months low										
S : Stock dividend during the past 12 months										
N : Listed during the past 12 months										
E : Earnings in US \$ or more										
- : Negative P/E										
Z : Earnings in zero										





Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield backs off as Vaughn Bean falls into the ropes during the tenth round of their championship bout at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Holyfield won by unanimous decision (AP Photo)

## Holyfield struggles to unimpressive victory

ATLANTA (AFP) — World heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield struggled to a unimpressive unanimous 12-round decision over challenger Vaughn Bean here Saturday in his hometown to keep his crown.

Holyfield, the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association champion, rose to 36-3. Bean fell to 31-2 but surpassed low expectations by going the distance despite his first career knockdown.

Two judges awarded Holyfield the title by scores of 117-110. The third had it 116-111 for Holyfield.

"I didn't come in overconfident," Holyfield said. "I was fighting with a guy who was inspired. I hit him with good shots. He also hit me with good shots. He's a good fighter, better than people gave him credit for."

"I didn't take anyone lightly," Holyfield said. "I was fighting with a guy who was inspired. I hit him with good shots. He also hit me with good shots. He's a good fighter, better than people gave him credit for."

In the 10th round, Bean was staggered by a series of rights from Holyfield and lost his balance along the ropes. As he tried to regain his balance, Holyfield sent him down for the first time in his career with a right uppercut.

"I have got to take advantage of every opportunity that I get," Holyfield said. "I turned. He was off balance. It's part of the boxing game. You use every advantage you get."

Bean rose at the count of seven and Holyfield could not put him away in the final 30 seconds of the 10th or in the 11th round. Bean landed solid punches in the 12th but could not get the knockout he needed.

"I thought I won the fight," said Bean, who made a similar claim after his only other loss, a 12th-round title loss to Michael Moorer last year.

"It's the same story. I hit him with good shots. I put pressure on him. I was backing him up."

Bean, whose 231 pounds were the most of his career for a fight, also said referee Brian Garry should have stopped or penalised Holyfield for the knockdown punch. Garry was moving to Bean when Holyfield struck.

"The ref didn't do his job," Bean said. "I was a little off balance. He hit me right on my temple. He or the ref could have been a gentleman about it."

Added Garry, "He clipped (Bean) a little bit. But he was already hurt. It was a knockdown. It wasn't the difference in the fight."

Holyfield, 35, shrugged off claims that his age, a 10-month layoff or week-long promotion efforts to sell tickets for the fight were factors in his poor showing against Bean, 25.

"He fought a smart fight," Holyfield said. "Anytime you break a fighter's rhythm like that it's a smart fight."

Holyfield plans to next fight Britain's Henry Akinwande, hopefully by the end of the year. The two were to have met in June but Akinwande tested positive for hepatitis.

"If it can be made, I will fight him this year," Holyfield said. "I'm not injured and I'm in shape."

Holyfield said his ultimate goal is unifying the world titles. That means facing Britain's Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion who risks his crown next Saturday against Croatia's Zeljko Mavrovic.

"I have what it takes to beat all the fighters," Holyfield said. "My goal is to be the undisputed champion of the world."

The words rang hollow. Holyfield turned down \$20 million to fight Lewis and took a \$5.8 million payday to face Bean, who like Akinwande is a mandatory sanctioning body challenger.

Lewis should take little encouragement from Bean pushing Holyfield to the limit, the Atlanta-born boxer said.

"You have to look at styles of fighters," Holyfield said. "Lennox Lewis would come at me and try to take my head off and give me a chance to take his head off. Vaughn Bean was very defensive. He survived. He kept his head out of the way."

Holyfield dominated the first four rounds but Bean improved in each, using overhand rights to the head and inside punches while Holyfield used combinations to keep Bean off balance.

Bean controlled the fifth and sixth rounds, with Holyfield inactive and struggling.

The champion answered in the seventh with a right hook and left uppercut to stagger Bean.

But the challenger came back in the eighth, moving Holyfield back to stun a crowd of more than 41,000 at the Georgia Dome. Bean's only prior fight beyond the seventh round was in his title loss to Michael Moorer 18 months ago.

Holyfield appeared tired but closed the ninth round with a flurry in the final 30 seconds and began reasserting himself in the 10th.

Holyfield evoked fears of his prior hometown fight in 1991, when he was staggered before recovering to beat Bert Cooper for the IBF and WBA crowns.

"Bean doesn't have a style," Holyfield said. "A lot of fighters with high ranks, they are sure of their style. Vaughn Bean did not have a style. I didn't think he knew what he was going to do, so it was hard for me to know what I was going to do. It was hard to get his timing."

## AC Milan free Capello

MILAN (AFP) — AC Milan have cleared the way for top Italian coach Fabio Capello to join city rivals Inter Milan.

Capello is still under contract with AC Milan despite being axed as coach last summer after failing to stop the club's dismal run of results.

AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi is now willing to free him, should Inter Milan decide to sack Gigi Simoni after their poor start to the season.

Berlusconi said: "I have a great deal of respect for people who behave properly and I believe in giving everyone an opportunity. I think that if the possibility arose for Capello, Milan would not deny him it."

The weekend comment took Italian football by surprise, given the intense rivalry between the two Milan teams.

Berlusconi explained: "I know it's Inter, but I can't just see things from a fan's point of view any more. I'm a Milan city councillor and I have to do the right thing for all the people I represent."

Capello guided Milan to four league titles between 1991 and 1996, before winning the Spanish league with Real Madrid in 1997. He served only a year of his two-year contract here before being replaced by Alberto Zaccaroni.

Doubts are being voiced over Simoni after Inter's miserable 2-0 defeat to Real Madrid last Wednesday and a Serie A debut which saw them 2-0 down to newly-promoted Cagliari before scrambling a 2-2 draw.

Simoni, who was summoned for a meeting last week with club president Massimo Moratti, has told his men to buck their ideas up in Sunday night's home debut here against lowly Piacenza.

## Switzerland, Spain in Fed Cup deadlock

GENEVA (AFP) — Switzerland and Spain ended the first day of their Fed Cup final clash tied at 1-1 here on Saturday, following wins for Martina Hingis and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Hingis, the World No. 1, defeated former Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-4 to give the Swiss a 1-0 lead while Patty Schnyder went down to Sanchez Vicario in a marathon contest, losing 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 after two hours and 25 minutes.

Schnyder, ranked ninth in the world, seemed certain to go down tamely after being eclipsed in the first set and broken immediately in the second.

But she then found the form that allowed her to knock out Steffi Graf from the U.S. Open a fortnight ago to come back into the match.

She won eight of the next nine games but then, at the crucial moment, went back into her shell, allowing her opponent to switch tactics and regain the initiative.

Sanchez Vicario, the world number four, said: "I won because of my head and my legs, and because I played the big points better than she did."

The same players will play in the reverse singles on Sunday, followed by the doubles.

The Spaniards have a clear advantage in experience. They have won the Fed Cup four times this decade, in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

They have reached the final on eight occasions and Sanchez Vicario and seventh-ranked Martinez have played in all those finals. Switzerland have never won the Fed Cup but were cheered by a 10,000 crowd on Saturday.



Swiss player Martina Hingis massaged by her physiotherapist Michel Golay during the third match against Spanish player Arantxa Sanchez of the Fed Cup Final Switzerland vs Spain in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday. Hingis defeated Sanchez 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 (AP Photo)

## Anderson grabs draw for Barcelona

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish champions Barcelona grabbed a 2-2 draw away to arch-rivals Real Madrid on Saturday, thanks to an 84th-minute goal from Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson.

Anderson ran onto a through ball in the heart of the Real defence and toe-poked the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

The result, however, left Real Madrid on top of the table with seven points from three games. Barcelona are in third spot with five from three behind Zaragoza. The rest of the first division play on Sunday.

Real's goals both came from Spanish international Raul.

Fernando Morientes wriggled clear on the left after eight minutes. When his shot was saved, Raul netted the loose ball.

Dutch international Patrick Kluivert levelled things, however.

Just signed for \$14 million from Italian side AC Milan, he latched onto a rebound following a Rivaldo free-kick after 13 minutes.

Raul scored his second, shapping to shoot from the edge of the area and then chipping the diving goalkeeper on 25 minutes, after being set up by Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic.



Barcelona's Dutch star Reiziger, top, goes for the ball against Real Madrid's Morientes, white shirt, during action in their Spanish 1st division league game in Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium. The game ended 2-2 (AP Photo)

## French champs Lens crash again; Metz fail to score again

PARIS (AFP) — French champions Lens crashed to a new low on Saturday, losing 3-1 at Lyon, while last season's runner-up Metz slipped close to the bottom of the table after failing to score for the sixth game in a row.

Lens' result left them with just seven points from six games and in ninth place in the table.

Metz, meanwhile, found themselves in 16th place and two off the bottom.

League leaders Bordeaux play away to fourth-placed club Marseille on Sunday hoping to maintain their 100 per cent record, while Paris St Germain

play hosts to third-placed Monaco in a sellout clash.

Lens, who hoped their draw with Arsenal in the Champions' League in midweek was a sign of improving form, were already two down by half-time, through Swiss striker Marco Grassi and his attack partner Alain Caveglia — who produced a fine lob over the advancing keeper.

Wagneau Eloi gave Lens hope by pulling one back with a quarter-of-an-hour to go but a horrible mix-up between defender Eric Sikora and goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz allowed Cameroon World Cup star

Joseph-Desire Joh, who came on as a substitute, to walk the ball home into an empty net with two minutes to go.

Metz, meanwhile, completed 540 minutes of football without a goal.

Their ineptitude in front of goal was underlined when Bruno Rodriguez missed a penalty. Their only points this season have come from three draws.

Rennes, in fifth place, won 2-0 against Bastia but had Moroccan World Cup star Youssef Rossi sent off.

Auxerre, one place below them, won 3-1 over visiting Sochaux.

They managed two fine goals, with Gerard Baticle netting a fine header after eight minutes and striker Steve Marlet putting away an acrobatic volley seven minutes from the end.

Struggling Strasbourg claimed their first win of the season, but only after Olivier Echouafni grabbed the winner three minutes into injury time, hammering the ball high into the net.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yares Theatre
	TEL: 5634144	TEL: 5634144	TEL: 5699238	TEL: 5677420	TEL: 5634793	TEL: 5634793	TEL: 4625155
	Sophie Marceau ... in Leo Tolstoy's <b>ANNA KARENINA</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>NASSER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam ... in <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD 1' <b>NASSER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD 2' <b>UP CLOSE &amp; PERSONAL</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria <b>ARMAGEDDON</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria <b>GREAT EXPECTATIONS</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	<b>WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY TERRORISM</b>





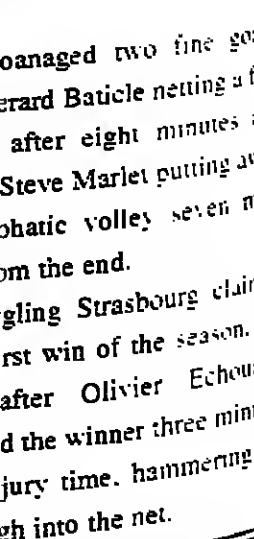
ist Michel Gola during of the Fed Cup Final is defeated Sanchez 7-6

# Sports



against Real Madrid's division league game in d 2-2 (AP Photo)

# Sports



against Real Madrid's division league game in d 2-2 (AP Photo)

# Sports

# Sports

## Sports

### Jordan competes in first West Asian U-18 basketball tournament

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's under-18 boys basketball team plays Iran Monday in the second of their matches at the West Asian Basketball Tournament which opened in Beirut with five teams taking part.

In addition to the Lebanese hosts, Jordan, Syria, Yemen and Iran are contesting the event for the first time.

Jordan was to play Lebanon in their opening match Sunday the result of which was unavailable by press time.

Jordan plays Syria Sept. 22, and Yemen Sept. 26.

#### Tournament Schedule

Sept. 21  
Yemen-Lebanon  
Jordan-Iran  
Sept. 22  
Syria-Jordan  
Iran-Yemen

Sept. 24  
Lebanon-Iran  
Yemen-Syria  
Sept. 26  
Jordan-Yemen  
Syria-Lebanon

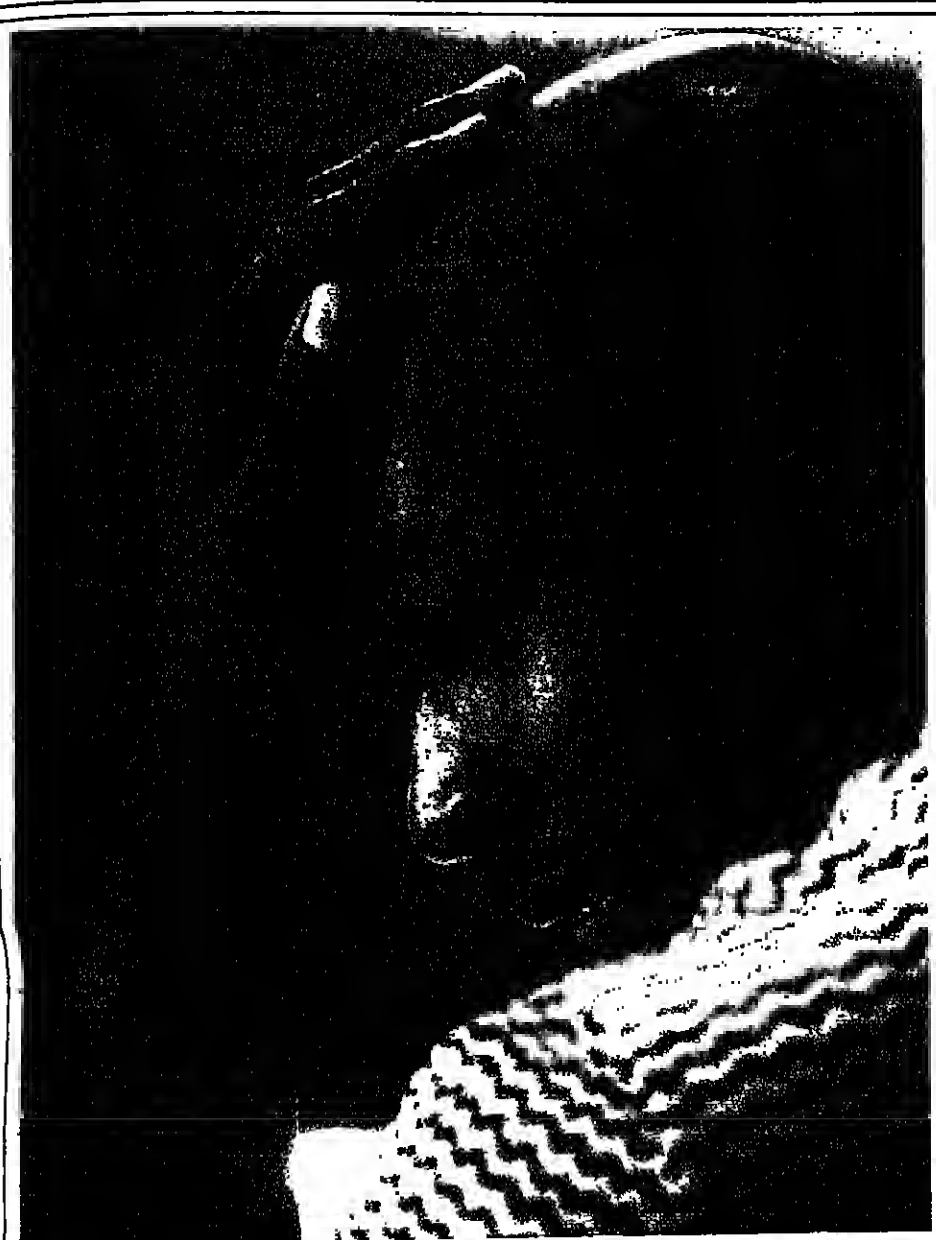
In August the newly-formed West Asian Federation organised the first zonal tournament for women in Amman with only three teams taking part.

Lebanon won first place, followed by Jordan second and Syria third.

Jordan's team includes Walid Ammari, Hamzeh Abdeen, Ayman Khalifeh,

Iyas Wajih, Mu'tasem Salameh, Talal Ammari, Luay Najjar, Khalil Nounou, Yazan Lahadi, Mohammad Azzouqah, Mohammad Masri and Yazan Jarar.

Ala' Bilbeisi was ruled out of the team after it appeared that he was three months older than the required age.



Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson puts his hand to his head during his boxing license reinstatement hearing before the Nevada Athletic Commission at Cashman Field in Las Vegas. The decision has been delayed for another two weeks (AP Photo)

### Villeneuve claims help for Schumacher

MILAN (AFP) — Formula One officials are doing everything to make Ferrari's Michael Schumacher the next world champion, according to Williams rival Jacques Villeneuve.

Schumacher has drawn level with McLaren's Mika Hakkinen in the points table with two more races to the end of the season.

Villeneuve, the reigning champion, said: "It would be great if Hakkinen were to be my successor for the world title. But from my point of view, if Schumacher were to win I would be relieved."

"I'd know then that nobody would be doing anything to make him win it next season."

The Canadian went on: "McLaren have the best car and two good drivers, but they seemed to be doing everything to lose the championship."

"At the start of the season, they were so far in front of everyone else that they didn't think about further development."

"They're coming back into it, but now they have to reckon with the fact that Michael is always in the right place at the right time. Especially when the yellow flags appear at the track-side."

The yellow flag is a danger signal, telling drivers there is an obstacle ahead and not to overtake. If waved, they must slow down.

Villeneuve, who will be leaving Williams at the end of the season for the new BAR team, also took a swipe at Schumacher himself.

"Ferrari don't exist," he told ANSA news agency. "The team is registered as Ferrari but in fact it's Schumacher who gives all the orders. Everyone there works for 'Team Schumacher'."

As for the German's brother and Jordan driver Ralf, Villeneuve said: "Ralf isn't like his brother very much. He seems a nice guy."

### Commonwealth Games Jarrett ends long wait for gold Aussie mother-of-five wins marathon

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Athletics nearly man Tony Jarrett led England on their best day of the Commonwealth Games on Sunday as the 70-nation spectacle neared its close.

But medal table leaders Australia were inspired by mother of five Heather Turland, who trained with a broken leg and still won the showpiece marathon.

England won 10 golds in all, four in boxing through Audley Harrison, Chris Bessey, John Pearce and Courtney Fry. The badminton and squash squads added two each.

England now have 33 golds, but trail Australia who have 75.

Jarrett, 29, won the 110m hurdles after getting 13 minor medals at major championships, and shooter Michael Gault became the second most successful competitor at the Games with four titles.

Jarrett, cashing in on the absence of world record holder Colio Jackson, who opted to race for big money in Tokyo, rattled several hurdles but edged Trinidadian Steve Brown by a hundredth of a second to win in 13.48sec.

Gault, who wryly remarked that he would have won four cars and a house if he had been competing for hosts Malaysia, took his personal tally of golds to four with a win in the individual air pistol.

Australian swim sensation Susie O'Neill is way out in front with six golds.

Turland, at 38 the oldest member of the Australian athletics squad, broke her leg earlier this year but put on a special light cast so she could swim to keep fit.

She had intended to retire after the Games but victory in 2hr 41min 24sec reignited her ambition and she decided to race on until the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

There was a first gold for Lesotho from marathon man Thabiso Moghali, so unheralded that his name was spelt three different ways by organisers.

Moghali, a gold miner who supplements his wages by competing in international marathons, is expected to be rewarded by his government for delivering their first win.

"We cannot find words to describe his victory — it was unexpected," said a Lesotho official.

Australia's Michelle Martin won her second gold in squash's debut.

Martin, whose brothers were both successful squash players, added the mixed doubles title to her singles crown. She teamed up with Craig Rowland to beat top-seeded English pair Simon Parke and Suzanne Horner 15-4, 15-7.

In the men's doubles final Australia's Rodney Eyles, the world singles champion, and Byron Davis crashed to English left-hander Paul Johnson and Mark Chaloner. England's Cassie Jackman and Sue Wright won the women's doubles.



Lisa Dick of Australia finishes second in the Women's Marathon and embraces first place finisher and team-mate Heather Turland Sunday at the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur (AP Photo)

world indoor champion John Price of Wales in the men's singles and South Africa's Lesly Hartwell beat local hope Saedah Abdul Rahim.

Kelly Morgan of Wales beat Aparna Popat of India to win the badminton women's singles and in cycling there was golds for Australia's Alayna Burns in the 24km points race and the Aussie team in the pursuit.

Elsewhere in the athletics, there was a new Games record in the pole vault by South African Riaan Botha, who benefited from the absence of compatriot Okkert Brits, posting a mark of 5.60 metres.

The men's long jump produced a duel between Australians Jai Taurimai and Peter Burge, both equalling the Games record of 8.22 metres. Burge won the gold on countback.

There was joy too for Beatrice Faumuina of New Zealand who had found life difficult since winning the world title last year. She got rid of her blues by taking the Commonwealth diving



Alexandre Despatie of Canada competes in the semi-finals of Men's Platform Diving Sunday at the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur (AP Photo)

There was double gold for Africa in lawn bowls. Zimbabwe's Roy Garden, an outsider at the start of competition, beat former cuss title with a Games record throw of 65.92m.

### Kournikova to challenge Sanchez and Seles

TOKYO (AFP) — Russian teenage sensation Anna Kournikova will make her Japanese debut Tuesday up against a strong field led by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Monica Seles in the \$450,000, Princess Cup tennis tournament.

The 17-year-old Russian, who caused a sensation by reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals last season, is making a belated debut after she failed to come to Tokyo a year ago when her mother failed to get a visa.

Kournikova reached her first final at Key Biscayne in March, but she was sidelined after she strained her right thumb in a fall during a victory over Steffi Graf of Germany at Eastbourne in June.

Fifth-seeded Kournikova, seeking to avenge her loss to Sanchez Vicario at the U.S. Open two weeks ago, was drawn in the same quarter with the top-seeded French Open champion.

But Kournikova has to beat Czech Adriana Gersi in the first round, and Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan or a qualifier in the second before getting a



Anna Kournikova match against the Spaniard.

The upper half of the draw also includes fourth seed Dominique Van Roost of Belgium and seventh seed Anke Huber of Germany.

Seles will defend her singles title as the second seed heading the bottom half against third seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, sixth seed Lisa Raymond of the United States, and eighth seed Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia.

Graf and Japan's ace Ai Sugiyama both pulled out with injuries, while former Japanese outdoor champion Naoko Sawamatsu, who will hang up her racket next month, makes her final appearance in a WTA event here.

- Seeded players:
1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spa)
  2. Monica Seles (USA)
  3. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)
  4. Dominique Van Roost (Bel)
  5. Anna Kournikova (Rus)
  6. Lisa Raymond (USA)
  7. Anke Huber (Ger)
  8. Henrieta Nagyova (Svk)

Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre is currently compiling a data base of specialists in the field of Gender and Development. Please help us identify local sources and experts in this field by sending CVs, showing any academic, professional or training background in Gender, so that you will be included in the data base.

Kindly send all information to the following address: The Information Unit Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre P.O. Box: 230511 Amman - 111123 - Jordan Or through the e-mail address: Pbwrc@amra.nic.gov.jo

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# Israel-PNA diplomatic fight continues at U.N.

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — The Israeli-Palestinian diplomatic battle moves to U.N. headquarters in New York this week after U.S. envoy Dennis Ross failed again to break the 18-month-old deadlock in the peace negotiations.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will personally take charge of the dispute on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session which opens Monday, officials said Sunday. Ross left the region Saturday night after 11 days of inconclusive talks aimed at gaining agreement to a U.S. package proposal centred on Israel withdrawing from 13 per cent more of the West Bank in exchange for tougher Palestinian action against terrorism.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders were careful in public not to call Ross' latest mission a failure, speaking of "some progress" on the host of issues making up the U.S. package deal.

But each side also blamed

the other for the lack of success in language which differed little from the mutual recriminations which have characterised their stalled negotiations for months.

"It is the Palestinians who are dragging things out because they have not given serious answers on the need to fight terrorism," Netanyahu said on Israel Radio Sunday.

"Netanyahu is still placing obstacles in the way and is wasting time," replied Nabil Abu Rudeina, Arafat's spokesman, recalling that the Palestinians accepted the U.S. proposals months ago.

Netanyahu and Arafat, however, each left open the possibility that they could hold their first direct meeting in nearly a year if progress can first be made over the U.S. proposals.

"A series of meetings will be held in New York to continue the negotiations and if there is any progress on the Israeli side then there might be a trilateral meeting," Abu Rudeina told AFP, referring to a meeting of Netanyahu, Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"A meeting is possible, but nothing has been decided yet," said Netanyahu.

Israeli officials warned, however, that Palestinian plans to use the General Assembly session to promote their drive for statehood could sour the bilateral negotiations.

"We are worried that the Palestinians use the General Assembly session to accuse Israel of being to blame for the stalemate in the peace process," said David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's spokesman.

Abu Rudeina confirmed that Arafat viewed the U.N. meeting as an important platform to present the Palestinians' position.

"This will be the first time that the leader of a non-member will address the General Assembly on equal footing with other members," he told AFP.

"Arafat will give a very important speech that will constitute a new stage in defining the Palestinian interests in the peace process and the Palestinians' right to establish an independent state," he said. Arafat has warned repeatedly

in recent months that the Palestinians will unilaterally proclaim statehood when the Oslo interim peace accords with Israel expire on May 4, 1999.

Netanyahu has warned in return that Israel would respond with its own "unilateral measures" — an apparent reference to economic sanctions and the possible annexation of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip still under Israeli control.

Israel's foreign ministry last week said Netanyahu's main aim at the upcoming U.N. session was to foil a series of Palestinian initiatives designed to boost their bid for statehood.

Israel is particularly troubled by a document circulated by the PLO delegation to the United Nations last week outlining plans to seek U.N. recognition of the Palestinians' right to statehood.

Israel also wants to prevent the Palestinians from challenging Israel's credentials at the United Nations by seeking a clear statement that Israel's representation does not cover the occupied territories.

## Most Israelis prefer Palestinians expelled from West Bank, Gaza

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — About two-thirds of Israelis wish it were possible to expel Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a poll indicated Sunday.

In the poll published by the Israeli newspaper Maariv, the question was posed as a hypothetical one because of the enormous political and military repercussions such a step would have.

If there were no such price to be paid, 65 per cent of the respondents said they would support expelling the Palestinians.

Twenty-six per cent were opposed, and 9 per cent did not express an opinion.

However, a political party advocating expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza won only two seats in Israel's 120-seat parliament in the 1996 general election.

Maariv said respondents to the poll, conducted by Gallup, were 550 adults. It did not say whether the respondents included Israel's minority Arab citizens, or describe the polling method.

The margin of error was 4.5 percentage points, it said.

Responding to another question, 54 per cent believed that the Arabs would not give up their dream of destroying the state of Israel, but 34 per cent said Arabs are interested in making peace with Israel.

A large majority, 71 per cent, expected Israel to benefit economically if it signs peace agreements with all the Arab nations.

## Killer put under house arrest

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)** — A Jerusalem court on Sunday ordered a Jewish settler suspected in the fatal shooting of a Palestinian teen-ager put under effective house arrest pending a decision on any formal charges.

Palestinians bitterly protested the decision and called Thursday's shooting an unprovoked attack. Settlers defended the suspect's action and demanded his release.

The settler, Avshalom Ladan, 35, of the Dolev settlement in the West Bank near the town of Ramallah — was to stay in a Jerusalem hotel, where his family would be allowed to join him, for at least a week.

The two-day Jewish New Year's holiday begins at sundown on Sunday.

Ladan posted 5,000 shekels (\$1,350) bond and was ordered not to discuss the case with anyone else involved in it, on either side.

The slain Palestinian youth, 17-year-old Iyad Kabasma, was walking home from

school with other teen-agers when the shooting occurred. Another youth was wounded as well.

The teen-agers denied they had been throwing rocks.

Ladan told police he fired in the air after his car was stoned, and that he was not aware anyone had been hit. He turned himself in several hours after the shooting.

Israeli radios said tests found that the bullet that killed Kabasma had come from Ladan's hand gun.

"We are not happy when people are killed," said settler leader Aharon Domb. "But everyone who creates a dangerous situation and tries to kill Jews — he is putting himself in danger." Palestinian official Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, told army radio said the handling of the case showed the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was giving a green light to settlers who attacked Palestinians.

## 'Dimona reactor on verge of collapse'

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona is on the verge of collapse due to radiation eating away at the facility's metal superstructure, according to a report in the Yediot Aharonot newspaper. "The damage to the metal building covering the nuclear reactor is severe and it may collapse as a result of the high levels of radiation," the newspaper quoted a U.S. nuclear expert, Harold Howe, as saying.

The Yediot Aharonot said Howe had posted his report on Dimona on the Internet, citing "internal documents" from the nuclear facility which is believed to be the centre of Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

In the Internet article, Howe also cited satellite photos taken by a Russian spy plane in 1989 which allegedly reveal evidence of serious radiation leaks at Dimona.

The infra-red photographs show an absence of vegetation around parts of the reactor, a development Howe compared to serious pollution around a similar facility in Hanford, Washington.

The Hanford site was closed 10 years ago and the United States has spent billions of dollars cleaning up the area, he said.

The Howe report said a serious debate had been launched among Israel's leaders over whether to close Dimona.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office dismissed the report as "stupid."

"The [Dimona] reactor is in conformity with international standards and also with harsh Israeli standards," the Yediot Aharonot quoted an unnamed official as saying.

"This report is stupid and instils unnecessary fear in the public," said the official.



WOMAN: 'Portrait of a Woman' by Yolande Labaki, one of the exhibits at the Darat Al Funun, celebrating 50 years of Lebanese Graphic Art. The exhibition runs until the end of September (see story page 3) (Photo courtesy of Darat Al Funun)

## In first-time visit by Iranian premier in 12 years Khatami appeals for dialogue to avert war

**UNITED NATIONS (AFP)** — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday appealed for a dialogue between peoples, and pledged to do everything possible to avert war with Afghanistan.

Khatami, who was given a rapturous reception at a two-hour meeting in a U.N. hall with 800 members of the Iranian community in the United States, made no specific reference to relations with Washington, participants said.

He is making the first visit by an Iranian president to the United States in 12 years. As part of his effort to end the Islamic nation's decades-long isolation from the West, he spoke on the eve of a landmark address to the U.N. General Assembly on Monday.

Most of his speech was devoted to quoting from the mythology-inspired work of Iranian poet Shah Narmeh, the Iranian Homer who wrote that Iranians should respect each other as well as their enemies.

Responding to a question about Afghanistan, Khatami stressed that he was making every effort to avoid war with the Taliban authorities blamed for the killing of eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist in northern Afghanistan.

He accused the fundamentalist Sunni militia of exporting illicit drugs, and said the Taliban's brand of Islam was "backward."

"What they have done is

inexcusable," he said, apparently referring to the recent murders which prompted a sudden upsurge in tensions between the two neighbours.

Iran's Shiite authorities back the Afghan opposition battling the Taliban in northern Afghanistan. The Taliban now control more than 90 per cent of Afghan territory, but are still denied Afghanistan's U.N. seat.

"We will do everything we can to avoid war. But you Iranians will understand if we defend your land if necessary," said Khatami, according to a participant who translated his remarks from Farsi.

Khatami also hoped that the international community would "bring pressure" on the Taliban to avert armed conflict.

U.N. chief Kofi Annan has convened a ministerial-level meeting on Afghanistan on Monday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, to be attended by six Afghan neighbours plus the United States and Russia.

Washington has not had diplomatic relations with Tehran since the 1979 hostage-taking in Iran.

Khatami stressed that the Iranian diaspora had a role in opening up his country. More than two million people of Persian extraction are estimated to live in the United States.

He told his audience that ending Iran's isolation was not only his duty, but that as

Iranians, they had to start a dialogue between civilisations.

The West looks at Iran as a market and as a sphere of influence, he said. But they also need to know the culture and the centuries-old civilisation of Iran.

Khatami, a moderate who took office in August last year, also mentioned domestic politics by referring to "the problem we have inside," but did not get into details on his struggle with the hardline clerics.

Asked about recent newspaper closures which have sparked complaints by human rights groups, Khatami said: "We don't want any newspaper or any voice to be silenced."

"But we have a long way to go before freedom becomes institutionalised in our country," he acknowledged, and stressed that internal problems "cannot be resolved overnight."

Khatami's specially-invited audience gave him two standing ovations and repeatedly interrupted his remarks with applause.

Reacting afterwards, one woman who declined to be identified said: "It's a new beginning. As a woman, I was very impressed. He believes in freedom for women."

"He's a good president," said New York businessman Benjamin Torosian, who noted that Khatami had encouraged the Iranian diaspora to renew links with Iran.



## Mandela to receive honorary degree from Harvard

**CAMBRIDGE (AP)** — South African President Nelson Mandela's honorary law degree from Harvard puts him in heavy company. Mandela, 80, is one of only three people to receive an honorary degree from Harvard at a time other than the university's commencement exercises. The others were George Washington in 1776 and Winston Churchill in 1943. The honor "bids great symbolic significance to the mind and to the future memory of this great American institution — the name of an African is now added to those two illustrious leaders," Mandela said to a standing ovation of more than 8,000 people in Harvard Yard on Friday.

## Beauty queen gives up crown at home

**PORT-OF-SPAIN (AP)** — Miss Universe Wendy Fitzwilliam will be right at home when she gives away her crown next year, as her home nation of Trinidad and Tobago was chosen to host the 1999 pageant. Trade and Tourism Minister Mervyn Assam made the announcement at a news conference Saturday, saying that Trinidad and Tobago had bid \$3 million to host the pageant.

Fitzwilliam's reign as Miss Universe helped the Caribbean country win out over other contenders such as Mexico, Jamaica and Israel, even though it did not make the highest bid, said Assam.

## Rolling Stones wrap up world tour in Istanbul

**ISTANBUL (AFP)** — The Rolling Stones on Saturday wrapped up their Bridges to Babylon tour with first-ever concert in Istanbul. "Turkey, are you ready?" Mick Jagger asked the crowd of approximately 40,000 spectators, who responded with a roar. The band kicked off the concert with "Satisfaction" almost an hour behind schedule to an expectant audience. But it was "Paint It Black," which Jagger described as having been "done under Turkish influence," that really brought down the house.

## Richard Gere visits St John's Grotto on Patmos

**ATHENS (AFP)** — Movie star Richard Gere, holidaying on the Greek island of Patmos, said a visit to the cave where St. John wrote the Book of Revelations reminded him of Tibet. The cave of St. John, the focal point of the Orthodox faith, reminded the star of "Pretty Woman" of the cave of a Tibetan saint, Milarepa, he told Greek Mega television. "Any place where people had very serious contemplations, serious works on their mind and their hearts, it imbues the environment, you can feel it," said Gere, a convert to Buddhism.

## Spielberg decorated

**ARLINGTON (AP)** — Director Steven Spielberg has received the army's highest civilian decoration for "Serving Private Ryan," his gritty depiction of American soldiers in combat during World War II. Army Secretary Louis Caldera presented Spielberg with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award on Thursday and lauded him for "reminding Americans of the sacrifices that soldiers make to defend our country." Defence Secretary William Cohen said he left his viewing of the movie in silence, struck by its profound impact.

## Iraq to meet Annan on arms stand-off

**BAGHDAD (R)** — Iraq is to send a delegation to New York shortly to meet U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to try to resolve the standoff between Baghdad and U.N. weapons inspectors, an Iraqi official said.

The meeting would discuss a proposal by Annan dealing with both the standoff and the review of trade sanctions on Iraq, said Amir Al Saadi, an adviser at the Presidential Office.

"We have heard about those suggestions and we are quite satisfied with them," Saadi told a news conference late on Saturday night.

"Has the disarmament issue been implemented or not?... This is the core of his [Annan's] suggestions," said Saadi, who is also Iraq's top negotiator with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Saadi said Annan's proposals "deal with Section C of the

Security Council Resolution 687 which is what we have been calling for."

Section C deals with ending the embargo on Iraqi oil exports imposed as punishment for Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"There will be a high-level meeting between the secretary general and the Iraqi side in the nearest future," he said.

Iraq decided to halt cooperation with UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — which monitors Iraq's nuclear programme — unless UNSCOM is restructured to reduce what Iraq calls excessive U.S. influence.

It also called for an end to the U.N. trade sanctions.

In response to the Iraqi decision, the Security Council on September 9 decided to suspend its regular 60-day review of sanctions against Baghdad but called for a "comprehensive review" of embargoes if Baghdad resumed cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors.

Without the reviews there is no hope of lifting or easing the embargoes.

Saadi said Iraq would not talk with UNSCOM to resolve the standoff. "It is useless. We have been talking with them for the past seven years and that led us to nowhere."

Iraq allows U.N. arms inspectors to monitor sites which have been identified as having evidence of prohibited weapons but it threatened on Wednesday to halt that if the Security Council did not rescind its resolution suspending the regular reviews of sanctions.

Nils Carlstrom, director of UNSCOM's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre, said monitoring of declared sites was going on normally.

"Monitoring of declared sites is being conducted in a professional way," Carlstrom told Reuters on Sunday, adding that there were six U.N. permanent teams in Iraq to monitor some 100 sites.

## Sudan promises 'painful' response if U.S. were to attack again

**KHARTOUM (AFP)** — President Omar Al Bashir vowed Sunday to retaliate if the United States attacked Sudan again as thousands of people staged a rally exactly one month after the U.S. missile strike on a Khartoum drugs plant.

Sudan "reserves the right to respond and our response will this time be painful," Bashir told a rally marking the August 20 attack on the Al Shifaa plant which the United States claimed was making materials for chemical weapons.

He said the Sudanese government had received an unsigned six-point note from the United States warning that Washington would hit Sudan again if any of its interests in the world were subjected to

acts of terrorism.

"Our message to Muslims around the world is that the U.S. administration is waging war against us because we are sticking to our Islamic values. The U.S. wants us to go down on our knees but we have vowed not to kneel except in prayer for Allah," Bashir said.

The United States launched cruise missiles against the factory, as well as a base in Afghanistan linked to Islamic militant Osama Ben Laden, following deadly attacks against American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7.

Sudanese authorities have insisted that the Al Shifaa factory only produced pharmaceutical and veterinary medicines.

## 'Taliban call for improved relations with Tehran'

**KABUL (AFP)** — Afghanistan's ruling Taliban want peace with neighbouring Iran and will not impose any conditions on improving ties, an official told AFP Sunday, on the eve of an international meeting on the war-torn country.

"We don't have any condition for normalisation of our relations with Iran," the Islamic militia's vice minister of information, Mullah Abdulrahman Hotak, said. "We only expect them to stop their interference in our affairs."

The call for improving relations came as the Taliban released five Iranians taken captive by their troops during battles against opposition Mujahadeen factions throughout the country in recent weeks.

The Iranians, who were released as part of a "goodwill" measure by the Taliban, flew into Islamabad from the south-

western Afghan city of Kandahar aboard a special Pakistan Air Force aircraft late Saturday.

They were being flown to Tehran on a Pakistan International Airlines flight on Sunday, diplomatic sources in Pakistan said.

"We hope they understand the sensitivity of the situation," Hotak said, adding, "if they have any problem with us we can discuss it through the U.N."

Iran's parliament is to hold a closed-door session Tuesday on the crisis in relations, IRNA reported Sunday.

Intelligence Minister Qorban-Ali Dorrie Najafabadi, Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani and Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh will inform the parliament "on security, defence and political aspects of the developments in Afghanistan and recent moves by the Taliban," it said.